

**How You Can Protect Your Money
and Secure Your Way to a**

COMFORTABLE RETIREMENT



Retirement Checklist is Courtesy of



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Are You Approaching Retirement?



As this milestone gets closer, it's important to make specific plans for the future.

How much income will you have each month? Where will the money come from? How will you spend your time? What sort of lifestyle do you want?

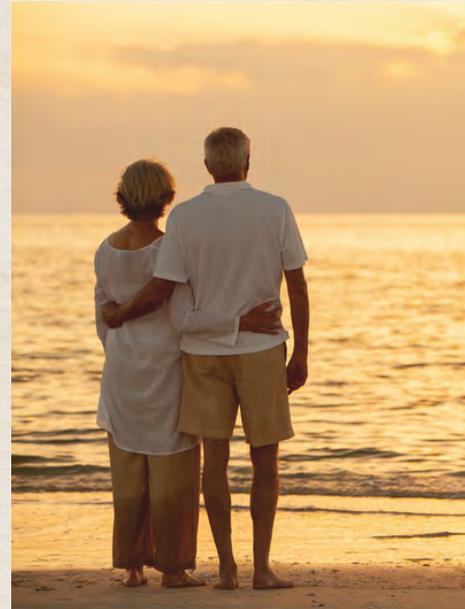
Below is a checklist that can serve as a starting point for these important questions. While it's not exhaustive, you can use it to help frame your retirement planning as various steps at different life stages.

This checklist starts with action items at 10 years from retirement and works its way down from there. Your SafeMoney.com financial professional can help you with any questions that you might have come to mind.

Financial Planning Steps

10 Years from Retirement

- Start talking with your spouse or partner about what you both want in retirement
- If not working with financial advisor, consider looking for one
- Begin reviewing and updating short-term financial goals along with long-term financial goals for retirement (in writing)
- Establish and review annual net-worth statement
- Are you saving enough for retirement?
- Evaluate progress in terms of how much annual income that your current retirement assets would generate
- Consider catch-up contributions to company-sponsored retirement plan, other retirement accounts as needed
- Note the tax status of your retirement accounts/other assets
- How will your future retirement income be taxable?
- Take note of progress on paying off mortgage debt
- Any other debt loads to pay off?



Financial Planning Steps 5 Years from Retirement

- Now deep in the “retirement red zone,” or where the risk of financial losses at this point is hard to recover from
- Talk with advisor about protection against this “sequence risk”
- Calculate how much your ideal lifestyle will cost
- If haven’t started, map out income streams in retirement
- Run projections of how much yearly income you might receive from your retirement assets
- Determine what sources you will tap for retirement income
- Begin exploring different strategies for claiming Social Security
- Consider Roth conversions and other tax-smart strategies if they make sense for you
- Keep special tax rules in mind, such as the 5-year holding period for Roth accounts, when considering tax moves
- Think about healthcare and long-term care in retirement
- What will your Medicare options be for health coverage – or continuing employer coverage for a time if you keep working?
- Start thinking about your company-sponsored retirement plan and what you will do with it





Financial Planning Steps 3 Years from Retirement

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- Take note of you and your spouse/partner's current financial situation and progress toward retirement
 - If haven't started, gradually transition your financial plan toward preservation and lifelong income goals
 - Start considering diversification strategies that can protect your assets against lifestyle-changing losses
 - Consider housing and where you will live in retirement
 - If haven't started, think about legacy goals and wealth transfer strategies to achieve them
 - Take note of any major life changes that might affect your plan: divorce, marriage, new family additions, etc.
 - If haven't started, map out income streams in retirement
 - Review wills, trust documents, powers of attorney, other important legal documents
 - If no wealth transfer plan, ask your financial advisor & other trusted sources for attorney/tax advisor referrals
 - Check up on beneficiary designations on accounts, insurance, and other assets to ensure they're in line with legacy wishes
 - Start making annual reviews on beneficiary designations and estate documents going forward
 - Review insurance policies and coverage

Financial Planning Steps

1 Year from Retirement

- Is your financial plan now ready for what your post-retirement goals will be?
- Does your plan account for inflation? It should include strategies for growth that help offset inflation over time
- Review current progress with financial professional, whether any steps are needed on cusp of retirement
- Think about what you will do for enrolling in Medicare and claiming Social Security benefits
- How will you cover medical expenses in retirement, apart from what Medicare might cover?
- Review those plans with your significant other, and their plans for Medicare as well as Social Security
- Enroll in Medicare when you are eligible and if right for your situation
- Consider housing, whether you will stay in your present home after you retire, and steps to pay down mortgage if so
- Do you need additional guaranteed income to cover your monthly living expenses?
- Get whatever paperwork is needed for your employer retirement plan and start deciding what you will do with it
- Start planning for what you will do with newfound free time





Financial Planning Steps Post-Retirement

- Put your plan into action, working with your financial professional to start retirement on a good note
- Solidify your actual budget for income and spending for good, building on all of your prior income planning
- If haven't done yet, decide what to do with your employer retirement plan
- Enjoy the fruits of your life's work, and explore ways to pursue your retirement lifestyle that go beyond its financial aspects
- If you missed any prior steps or your financial professional brings up something needing attention, now is good to discuss
- Have annual reviews of your financial plan, and make adjustments as needed for your retirement – you've earned it!



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