

INTERACTIVE CHECKLIST

Pre-Retirement Readiness Checklist

*A comprehensive review to make sure you are truly
ready for the next chapter.*

Retirement Readiness

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Whether retirement is two years away or ten, this checklist helps you identify gaps in your preparation. Work through each section and note any items that need attention. A single unaddressed gap can create significant problems down the road.

SECTION 1 OF 7

Income and Cash Flow

- I know how much annual income I need to maintain my current lifestyle in retirement
- I have identified all sources of retirement income (Social Security, pensions, investments, rental income, business proceeds)
- I have calculated the gap between my guaranteed income and my total spending need
- I have a plan for how to fill that gap from savings and investments
- I have stress-tested my income plan against inflation, market downturns, and unexpected expenses

TIP

A realistic retirement spending estimate is typically 75 to 90 percent of pre-retirement spending. But the first five years often cost more due to travel, home projects, and deferred spending. Plan for a higher burn rate early.

SECTION 2 OF 7

Investment and Asset Allocation

- My portfolio allocation reflects my time horizon and risk tolerance for retirement
- I have rebalanced my portfolio within the past 12 months
- I have enough in liquid, low-volatility assets to cover 2 to 3 years of spending without selling stocks in a downturn
- I am not overly concentrated in any single stock, sector, or asset class
- I understand the fee structure on every investment I own
- I have reviewed whether my current advisor or platform is the best fit for the distribution phase of retirement

SECTION 3 OF 7

Tax Planning

- I understand how each of my accounts will be taxed when I take withdrawals
- I have evaluated whether Roth conversions make sense before RMDs begin at age 73
- I have a withdrawal sequence strategy that minimizes my lifetime tax bill
- I understand how Social Security taxation works and how my other income affects it
- I have reviewed the IRMAA thresholds for Medicare premium surcharges

KEY INSIGHT

The years between retirement and age 73 are often the most valuable tax planning window you will ever have. Roth conversions, capital gains harvesting, and income smoothing done during this period can save six figures over a 30-year retirement.

SECTION 4 OF 7

Healthcare and Insurance

- I have a plan for health insurance coverage between retirement and Medicare eligibility (age 65)
- I understand my Medicare enrollment timeline and have a plan for Parts A, B, and D
- I have evaluated whether a Medigap or Medicare Advantage plan is the better fit
- I have considered long-term care risk and whether insurance or self-funding is appropriate
- I have reviewed my life insurance needs and whether existing policies should be maintained, converted, or dropped

SECTION 5 OF 7

Estate and Legacy

- My will is current and reflects my wishes
- I have a durable power of attorney and healthcare directive in place

- Beneficiary designations on all accounts are up to date
- I understand the SECURE Act 10-year distribution rule for inherited IRAs
- I have discussed my estate plan with my spouse, family, or beneficiaries
- If charitable giving is a priority, I have explored strategies like donor-advised funds or QCDs

SECTION 6 OF 7

Social Security Strategy

- I have created a my Social Security account at ssa.gov and reviewed my earnings record
- I have compared my estimated benefit at ages 62, 67, and 70
- If married, I have coordinated my claiming strategy with my spouse
- I understand how working past 62 affects my benefit if I claim early
- I have factored Social Security into my overall withdrawal sequence plan

SECTION 7 OF 7

For Business Owners

- I have a realistic valuation of my business
- I have a succession plan or exit strategy in place
- I am not relying solely on a business sale to fund retirement
- I have begun diversifying personal assets outside the business
- I understand the tax implications of my likely exit structure (asset sale vs. stock sale vs. installment sale)
- I have considered key-person coverage and what happens to my business if something happens to me

TIP

The most successful business exits take 3 to 5 years of preparation. If you plan to retire within the next decade, start planning your exit now, even if the timeline feels distant.

What a Fiduciary Review Covers

A fiduciary advisor is legally required to act in your best interest. A comprehensive review typically examines:

- Income gap analysis between guaranteed sources and spending needs
- Portfolio stress testing across market downturn scenarios
- Tax-efficient withdrawal sequencing and Roth conversion modeling
- Healthcare cost projections and coverage gap analysis
- Estate plan alignment with current beneficiary designations

No obligation. No product pitch. Just clarity.

Want a Professional Review?

Schedule a complimentary retirement readiness assessment. No obligation. No product pitch. Just clarity.

A fiduciary review covers: Income gap analysis | Portfolio stress testing | Tax sequencing | Healthcare projections | Estate alignment

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