



How ready am I for retirement? My Financial Checklist



Move confidently into the future™

BUDGET

Do you have a written, detailed and realistic monthly budget?

Does it include all essential expenses to maintain your home and cars, plus all of your insurance payments, food, medicines, clothing, and caring for pets?

Do you have a realistic plan for discretionary expenses?

Do you know how much you spend eating out, traveling, going to movies, shopping, taking care of yourself, etc.?

Have you tracked your current spending for three months?

Write down all of your expenditures for three full months in a row.

Analyze how much it varies and then see how realistic your future budgets are.

INCOME

How much guaranteed regular income will you have?

List regular income from Social Security, pensions and annuities.

Do you need to take withdrawals from investments to meet your budget?

Determine the gap between your income and your budget.

Which guaranteed sources of income have a cost of living adjustment?

Pensions may or may not, Social Security does. What do you have?

If you are married, what income remains for the survivor?

Contact Social Security, your pension administrator and your annuity company to get an estimate.

INVESTMENTS

Will you re-allocate your current investments after retirement?

Find out how much the re-allocation will cost and how much it will affect your returns.

Will it create any tax issues for you?

Do you work with a Financial Advisor?

Will you continue to work with an advisor when you retire? Have you discussed how your goals and portfolio will change when you retire? Does your advisor specialize in retirement issues?

Have you stress-tested your retirement portfolio?

Do you know how your portfolio will perform if the markets perform poorly?
Do you know how bear markets will affect your lifestyle?

INSURANCE

Do you have health insurance in retirement?

Medicare starts at age 65, even if you take Social Security at age 62. Do your budgets account for the steep inflation rate of health expenses?

Do you have a firm quote for health insurance?

Individual medical insurance is underwritten, meaning your own health circumstances will determine the premium. Don't guess. Get a quote.

Do you need life insurance?

Determine what each of you will need in the event of the other's death.

Do you have a plan to pay for long-term care?

Consider home health care, supportive care and nursing home. Then learn about the cost of each and how you will pay for it.

CONTINGENCY FUND

Do you have at least six months of expenses not at risk?

During down markets, can you suspend your withdrawals from your retirement portfolio and still pay your bills?

Do you plan any major purchases in the first three years of your retirement?

Put this money where it will not lose value.

Are parents or children counting on you as a contingency fund?

Reset expectations based on your new financial situation before they can become a potential source of family strife.