



READY TO RETIRE?

Here are some things to consider as you prepare to embark on the next leg of life's journey.



Know your expenses

Get a clear picture of your expenses and how that might change in retirement. Also, remember that the less debt you have in retirement, the better.



Don't overlook health care

Once you reach age 65, you're eligible for Medicare but it doesn't cover everything so be sure to look into it carefully. If you're younger than 65, you'll need to find coverage on your own and this can be expensive.



Know your Social Security Strategy

You can start taking Social Security checks at 62 but you don't have to and your benefit will increase if you wait. It is good to think about and evaluate when you want to start - a financial advisor can help.



Evaluate income and tax strategies

Sources of income vary from person to person and strategies can be complicated. It is important to talk with a professional that can help you make a plan for several reasons including:

- Not all sources of income are taxed the same
- Taking your required distributions at 70 1/2 might push you into a higher tax bracket
- Your annual income can affect what you pay for Medicare



Check risk in your accounts

Exactly how much of your portfolio should be dedicated to stocks - which are more volatile - will depend on how much income you need to generate during retirement. A financial advisor can help you best determine your risk score and stock to bond ratio.



Have a cushion

It generally makes sense to keep several years' worth of income away from the stock market in money markets, cash or other less risky investments.



Prepare emotionally

A transition to retirement can be trickier than you might imagine. It is important to have a strong social network and varied interests.



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Investment advice offered through
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