



# Retirement Planning Starter Checklist

Your guide to getting started on a confident, comfortable retirement  
Brought to you by East Valley Wealth & Retirement

## STEP 1: KNOW YOUR RETIREMENT TIMELINE

- Decide your ideal retirement age
- Estimate how long your retirement could last (age 85-95+)
- Identify your retirement phases and goals
- Consider early retirement options and how they affect Social Security

## STEP 2: EVALUATE YOUR INCOME SOURCES

- Calculate your expected Social Security benefits
- Review pension or annuity options (if any)
- Estimate income from 401(k), IRA, Roth accounts, and investments
- Consider part-time work, rental income, or other sources
- Identify potential income gaps

## STEP 3: UNDERSTAND YOUR SPENDING NEEDS

- Estimate monthly and annual expenses in retirement
- Include categories like housing, food, travel, insurance, healthcare, and hobbies
- Adjust for inflation and changes in lifestyle
- Build an emergency fund (6-12 months of expenses depending on your situation)

## STEP 4: PLAN FOR HEALTHCARE & INSURANCE

- Understand healthcare options before age 65 (COBRA, ACA, private plans)
- Estimate Medicare costs and coverage after 65
- Consider long-term care needs
- Review life insurance policies and needs in retirement

## STEP 5: MAXIMIZE YOUR TAX STRATEGY

- Know how your withdrawals will be taxed (IRA, 401(k), Roth, etc.)
- Consider Roth conversions to lower future tax burdens
- Understand Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs)
- Coordinate withdrawals to minimize tax burden

## STEP 6: GET ORGANIZED AND TAKE ACTION

- Create a list of all your financial accounts and passwords
- Review beneficiaries on retirement accounts and insurance
- Draft or update your will, power of attorney, and health directives
- Meet with a fiduciary advisor to create a custom plan

**NEED HELP WITH ANY OF THESE?**  
We offer a complimentary 15-minute Retirement Strategy Session to help you get started.

Schedule your appointment →  
*(15 minute phone call)*



### East Valley Wealth & Retirement

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