

The Retirement Countdown

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR YOUR
50TH BIRTHDAY AND BEYOND



Congratulations, you have put in a lot of hard work and are now preparing for the finish line!

As you look ahead to the next chapter of your life, you may realize that retirement is almost here. In this last stretch, you still have time to plan, prepare and achieve your retirement planning goals.

Once you turn 50 years old, you have access to new retirement planning resources. In this helpful guide, you will learn what new opportunities are available to you and how to strategically plan for your version of retirement.

BIRTHDAY MILESTONES



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Social
Security

73-75+

Required
Minimum
Distributions
(RMDs)

In your 50s

AGE 50

Catch-up Contributions

The BIG 5-0! We hope you got a big laugh from those over-the-hill jokes and support from friends and family. This is the first major milestone towards retirement.

Once you reach savings limits, you can add catch-up contributions to any of these accounts that you have:

- 401(k)
- 403(b)
- SARSEP
- Governmental 457(b)
- SIMPLE IRA
- IRA

Are you on-track or off-track? **At 50, it's a great time to take a closer look at just how far you have to go to reach your retirement goals.** Consider talking with a financial advisor for specific guidance and support.

For government employees that are part of public safety or political subdivision of a state, after you turn 50 years old and separate from service, you can access your governmental retirement plan penalty-free.

AGE 55

Early Withdrawals

If you leave your job during the year you turn 55, you can start taking penalty-free distributions from your current workplace retirement plan. This is the first time you can access your retirement savings without having to pay a 10% early withdrawal penalty.

For government employees, after you separate from service, you can access 457(b) retirement savings penalty-free at any age.

AGE 55

HSA Catch-up Contributions

Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) are triple-tax free savings accounts. Contributions are pre-tax. Your account grows tax deferred. And, when paying for qualifying medical expenses, the HSA money used is tax-free.

Once you max out your HSA limit, you can add a catch-up contribution to fund future medical expenses.

To learn more about Health Savings Accounts, [click here](https://www.healthcare.gov/glossary/health-savings-account-hsa/).*

AGE 59 ½

Retirement Withdrawals

Who knew ½ birthdays could be so fun?

At 59½, you can access the majority of retirement accounts penalty-free. That includes your IRAs, Rollover IRAs, SEP IRAs, SIMPLE IRAs and *may* even include your 401(k) if you're still working. To find out, you would need to speak with your plan administrator for the specifics for your plan.

This ½ birthday could be an opportunity to discuss the benefits of consolidating accounts, income for life products, Roth conversion strategies and/or other retirement planning suggestions.

* "Health Savings Accounts." HealthCare.gov.
<https://www.healthcare.gov/glossary/health-savings-account-hsa/>

In your 60s

AGE 60-63

Super Catch-up Contributions

To help you save even more, take advantage of super catch-up contributions. If your company allows for them, participants between the ages of 60 to 63 can make higher catch-up contributions, based on IRS-defined limits.

For more information, visit

www.irs.gov.

AGE 62

Minimum Social Security

This is the *earliest* you can claim Social Security. But, keep in mind, it will be the minimum benefit.

Claiming at 62 could permanently reduce your Social Security payment by 25% - 30%. And spousal benefits are cut 30% - 35%.

For more information, visit

www.ssa.gov.

AGE 65

Medicare

Most people sign up for Medicare during their "IEP" (Initial Enrollment Period):



However, if you're still working at 65, the rules may be different.

To find the best option for you, talk to a [Medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov) representative and explain your particular situation.

Don't wait until you turn 65. It's important to call in advance and learn about your options because the process can be complicated.

Visit www.medicare.gov for more information.

AGE 66-67

Full Retirement Age for Social Security

Here you are eligible to receive full Social Security benefits. That means 100% of your Social Security benefit.

Deciding when to officially take Social Security is a big decision.

Another factor in this decision is, how to claim if you are:

- [Married](#)
- [Widowed](#)
- [Divorced](#)
- [Single](#)

Click the links above to learn more information.

In your 70s

AGE 70

Maximum Social Security

If you wait to claim Social Security until age 70, you get your **maximum monthly payment**.

That's because you will earn an extra 8% for each year you delay claiming after your full retirement age until age 70. This can make a big difference in your retirement income!

It's time to claim this benefit or you're leaving money on the table.

AGE 73-75+

Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs)

Time to start paying taxes on your tax-deferred retirement accounts. The IRS requires you to begin taking at least a minimum amount of all your retirement money (except for Roth dollars) and declare it as taxable income. Failure to take out the right amount means a 25% penalty (yikes!).



You've spent years working towards retirement and now the finish line is coming into focus. Use these birthday celebrations as check-in opportunities to prepare and plan for success.

IF YOU NEED HELP OR HAVE QUESTIONS, WE'RE HERE FOR YOU.



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