TEN POINT FINANCIAL GROUP

Building Generational Wealth

The Retirement Income Blueprint

How to design retirement income that lasts — across the 4 pillars

EDUCATIONAL CONTENT ONLY — NOT FINANCIAL ADVICE

Most Americans run out of money in retirement around age 78. The plan can't just be 'max the 401(k) and hope.' This guide walks through the four pillars of a real retirement plan — and the decisions inside each that swing your timeline by years.

Pillar 1 — Income

Where will your monthly check come from in retirement?

- Social Security — Claim at 62, 67, or 70. The difference is up to 76% of your monthly benefit.
- Pensions (legacy) — Lump sum vs annuity election. Run the math BOTH ways before deciding.
- 401(k) / IRA withdrawals — Need a sustainable withdrawal rate (the 4% rule is a starting point).
- Annuity income — Fixed, FIA, SPIA can fill the gap between Social Security and your spending needs.
- Part-time work — Many retirees work 5-15 hours/week early in retirement. Income + meaning + health benefits.

Pillar 2 — Growth

Your retirement portfolio needs to outpace inflation for 25-30 years.

- Don't go too conservative too early — inflation eats fixed income.
- Sequence-of-returns risk: bad market years in years 1-5 of retirement can wreck the plan. Buffer assets help.
- Bucket strategy: 1-2 years cash, 3-7 years bonds, rest equities.
- Rebalance annually. Don't tinker monthly.

Pillar 3 — Taxes

Taxes are usually the biggest line item in retirement. Most retirees plan poorly here.

- Roth conversions BEFORE age 73 (when RMDs start) — convert in years when your tax bracket is lower.
- Withdrawal sequencing: usually taxable first, then tax-deferred, then Roth last (but every situation differs).
- RMDs — Required Minimum Distributions at 73. Skip them and pay a 25% penalty on the shortfall.
- IRMAA brackets affect Medicare Part B premiums — high income years can cost you $1,000-$3,000+ in extra Medicare premiums.

Pillar 4 — Legacy

What do you want to leave behind, and to whom?

- Beneficiary audit on every account — annual.
- Decide spouse-first inheritance vs immediate kids.
- Roth IRAs are the best inheritance vehicle (no taxes for heirs, 10-year stretch).
- Consider QCDs (Qualified Charitable Distributions) after 70½ — tax-efficient charitable giving from IRAs.

Social Security Claiming Framework

Choosing when to claim Social Security is one of the biggest financial decisions of your life.

- Age 62 — 25-30% reduction from full benefit. Take it if you need it or have poor health.
- Full Retirement Age (66-67) — 100% benefit. Default for most.
- Age 70 — 132% benefit (8% per year delayed credit). Best for high earners with longevity.
- Married couples — Coordinate. Lower earner can claim earlier, higher earner can delay to maximize survivor benefit.

Quick Self-Check: Are You On Track?

Use the 4% rule as a starting check.

- Take your desired annual retirement income (in today's dollars).
- Subtract expected Social Security + pension.
- Multiply the gap × 25 = the nest egg you need.
- Example: $80K needed - $30K SS - $0 pension = $50K gap × 25 = $1.25M nest egg.
- If your projected nest egg is below this number, you have a gap to close.

NEXT STEP

Free retirement strategy session

Tell us where you are today and where you want to be at 65 (or 70). We'll model the gap, look at tax efficiency, and identify Roth conversion windows that could shift your trajectory.

Schedule online:
tenpointfinancialgroup.com/contact?from=guide-retirement

Or call:
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Sources: SSA.gov, IRS.gov, Trinity Study, Schwab Retirement Research.

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