

Have You Given Yourself the “Green Light” to Retire?

5 Simple Exercises to Go From “Red” to “Green”

These easy exercises can help simplify the retirement income planning process and give you confidence that you won't run out of money so you can give yourself the “green light.”



Understanding the kind of retirement you want

I plan to live in _____
I'd like to spend my time _____

I dream of _____ in retirement
Ideally, I'd like to buy these big-ticket items _____

Calculating how much income it will take to support you

Option 1: I've done the math on my retirement budget and I know I'll need about \$_____/year in retirement

Option 2: I'd rather build an estimate using my current expenses of \$_____/year x 0.8 = _____/year in retirement

I estimate I'll spend about \$_____ extra each year on travel, home improvements, gifts, medical care, taxes, and other one-off expenses

Getting a clear picture of your savings & investments

I have about \$_____ total in tax-deferred accounts (ex: IRAs, 401(k)s, and workplace accounts)

I have about \$_____ total in tax-free accounts (ex: Roth IRAs)

I have about \$_____ total in taxable accounts

I have \$_____ in cash for emergencies and unexpected expenses

Based on my current age and family history, I expect to live on my retirement savings for ___ years

Creating a flexible strategy to draw the income you need

I expect to earn \$_____/month in guaranteed income from sources such as Social Security, pensions, annuities, veteran's benefits, etc. = _____/year

I expect to earn \$_____/month from other sources such as real estate income, business interests, consulting, part-time work, family trusts, etc. = _____/year

My total annual expenses of \$_____ and my annual income of \$_____ leave an estimated gap of \$_____ that I will need to generate from my retirement savings each year

If I have a bad portfolio year, I can afford to reduce my income by \$_____/year as a safety margin

Giving yourself the "green light" on your retirement plan

- I have run multiple portfolio scenarios with different growth and inflation assumptions and I am confident that my withdrawal needs won't hurt my portfolio
- I feel comfortable that my investing strategy balances growth, risk, and income so I don't run out of money
- I know when and how to file for Social Security and Medicare
- I have enough guaranteed income to help protect my lifestyle from market volatility
- I know how to lower my tax bill with a "tax-smart" withdrawal strategy
- My income plan is flexible enough to adapt to market conditions
- I'm comfortable reviewing my income strategy regularly as my lifestyle changes
- I have a plan to cover health and long-term care needs
- All of the boxes above are checked and I have my "green light" to retire**

If you've got any boxes left unchecked, then you are close to "green lighting" your retirement but not quite there. *Don't worry, I can help.*



Retirement

PODCAST NETWORK

Risk Disclosure: Investing involves risk including the potential loss of principal. No investment strategy can guarantee a profit or protect against loss in periods of declining values. Past performance does not guarantee future results.

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