



A free guide from Retire Ready Financial Group

THE RETIRE READY MAP

Four questions a bag of savings can't answer on its own,
and how to start answering them.

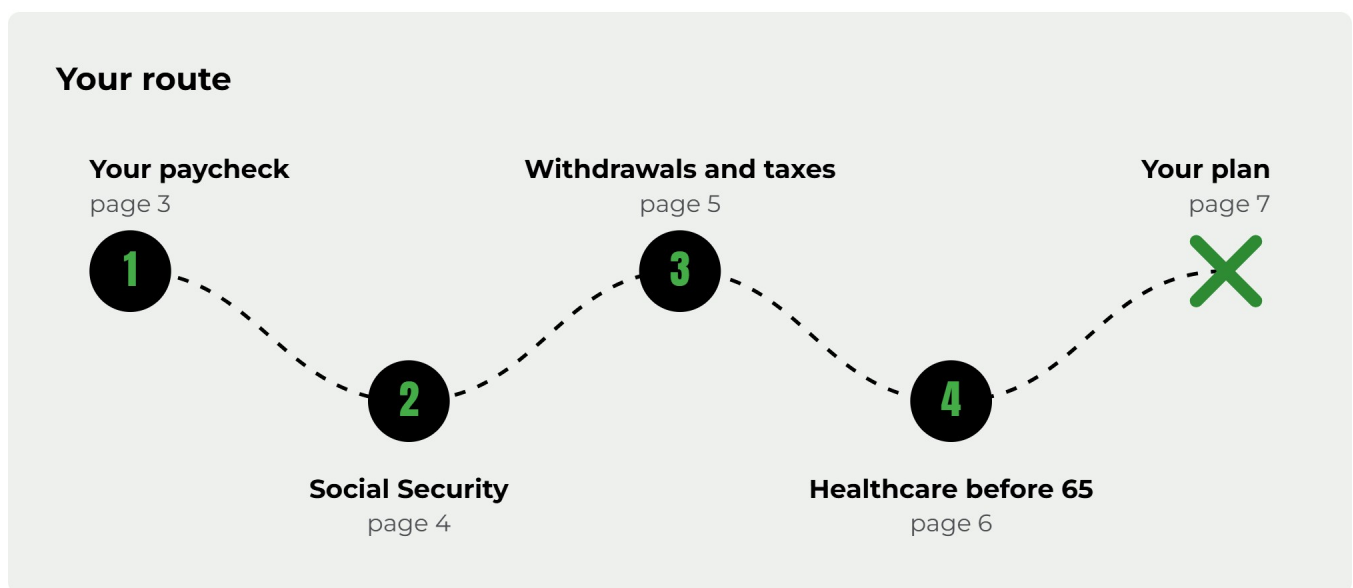
Before you set sail

SAVING WAS THE HARD PART. SPENDING IT WELL TAKES A PLAN.

You've spent decades saving, and there's a real number in your accounts. That number matters. On its own, though, it can't tell you how much you can spend each month, when to turn on Social Security, or what you'll owe in taxes once the paychecks stop.

That's the difference between savings and a plan. Savings is what you have. A plan is what it can do for you, year after year.

This map covers four legs of the trip from saving to spending. Each one ends with a few blanks to fill in, and page 7 pulls your answers together so a first conversation with an advisor can start from your real numbers.



Keep a pencil handy. Rough numbers are fine; the goal is a clear starting point, not precision.

TURN SAVINGS INTO A PAYCHECK

In retirement, you build your own paycheck from a few different sources.

Start with spending, not savings

Split your monthly costs into two piles: essentials (housing, food, utilities, insurance, healthcare) and extras (travel, hobbies, gifts). The essentials are what your plan has to protect no matter what markets do.

Build an income floor

Social Security, pensions and annuities keep paying regardless of how markets perform. Ideally, that dependable income covers most or all of your essentials.

Fill the gap from savings

Whatever the floor doesn't cover comes from your investments. How big that gap is, compared with how much you've saved, is one of the most important numbers in your plan.

About the "4% rule"

A widely quoted rule of thumb suggests withdrawing about 4% of savings in year one, then adjusting for inflation. It's a starting point, not a guarantee. Your age, your investments and especially market returns in your first few years of retirement can push the right number up or down.

Your numbers

Monthly essentials

\$

Monthly extras

\$

Dependable monthly income

\$

Monthly gap from savings

\$

DECIDE WHEN TO CLAIM SOCIAL SECURITY

It's one of the biggest income decisions in retirement, and it's hard to undo.

If you claim at	Your monthly benefit is
62, the earliest age	about 70% of your full benefit
67, full retirement age	100% of your full benefit
70, the latest that pays more	about 124% of your full benefit

Full retirement age is 67 for anyone born in 1960 or later. Each year you wait past it adds 8%, up to age 70.

What to weigh

- **Health and family history.** Waiting pays more each month, but it takes years of collecting to come out ahead.
- **Your spouse.** When the higher earner claims also sets the survivor benefit the other spouse may live on for decades.
- **Still working?** If you claim before full retirement age, benefits can be temporarily withheld when earnings pass a yearly limit.
- **Taxes.** Depending on your other income, up to 85% of your benefit can be taxable. Leg 3 comes back to this.

Your numbers

Your personal estimates at every claiming age are in your Social Security statement at ssa.gov/myaccount.

My benefit at full retirement age
\$ _____

My spouse's benefit at full retirement age
\$ _____

Age I'm leaning toward

CHOOSE WHICH ACCOUNTS TO SPEND FIRST

Where each dollar comes from can matter as much as how much you take.

Taxable

Brokerage and savings accounts. Generally only interest and gains are taxed.

Balance today

\$ _____

Tax-deferred

Traditional IRAs and 401(k)s. Withdrawals are taxed as ordinary income.

Balance today

\$ _____

Tax-free

Roth IRAs and Roth 401(k)s. Qualified withdrawals aren't taxed.

Balance today

\$ _____

The usual order isn't always the best one

A common approach spends taxable money first, then tax-deferred, then Roth, giving tax-free money the most time to grow. But leaving large tax-deferred balances untouched can backfire later, when required withdrawals land on top of Social Security.

Use the gap years

The years between retiring and starting Social Security or required withdrawals are often your lowest-income years. They can be a window to draw from tax-deferred accounts, or convert some to Roth, at lower tax rates.

Tax tripwires to plan around

- Required minimum distributions from tax-deferred accounts start at 73, or 75 if you were born in 1960 or later.
- As your other income rises, up to 85% of your Social Security can become taxable.
- Higher incomes pay more for Medicare, based on your tax return from two years earlier.

COVER HEALTHCARE UNTIL MEDICARE

Medicare starts at 65. If you retire earlier, you'll need a bridge.



Ways to bridge the gap

- **Retiree coverage** from a former employer, if it's offered.
- **COBRA**, which usually lets you keep your employer plan for up to 18 months, at full cost.
- **A spouse's employer plan**, if they're still working.
- **An ACA marketplace plan.** Premium help depends on household income, so the withdrawal choices from Leg 3 can change what you pay.
- **Health savings account dollars** can pay qualified medical costs tax-free at any age.

When you turn 65

Your first Medicare enrollment window lasts seven months, starting three months before your birthday month. Missing it without other qualifying coverage can mean penalties that last as long as you have Medicare. Also plan for what Medicare leaves out, including most dental, vision and long-term care.

Your numbers

Age I plan to retire

Bridge coverage I'm considering

Years until Medicare

Estimated monthly premium

\$

Pulling it together

YOUR RETIRE READY MAP

Bring this page to your first conversation with an advisor.

Monthly essentials	\$		
Dependable monthly income	\$		
Monthly gap from savings	\$		
Social Security (me, spouse)	\$		\$
Age I'm leaning toward claiming			
Taxable, tax-deferred, tax-free	\$	\$	\$
Target retirement age			
Healthcare bridge plan			

Gather before your call, if you can

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Recent account statements | ☐ Social Security statements |
| ☐ Pension or annuity details | ☐ Last year's tax return |
| ☐ Current health coverage details | ☐ A rough monthly budget |

Questions I still have

Your next step

NOW MAKE IT A PLAN.

You've sketched the map. A free 15-minute call with James Cipriotti can turn it into a plan built on your numbers instead of rules of thumb.

1

Pick a time

Phone or video, 15 minutes, whenever fits your week.

2

Bring page 7

Rough numbers are plenty. Blanks are fine too.

3

Leave with next steps

Know what a full plan would cover and whether working together makes sense.



Book your free call

Scan the code

Or call **610-727-1727**



150 N. Radnor Chester Rd., Suite F200, Radnor, PA 19087

Investment advisory services are offered through Retire Ready Wealth Management, an SEC registered investment advisor. Insurance and annuities are offered through James V. Cipriotti, NPN #2083768. This guide is for general education and is not individualized investment, tax or legal advice. Consult your own professionals before acting.