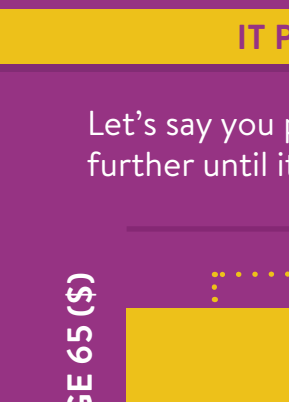


## Someday you will be an OLD PERSON

Sorry to remind you, but it's true—and the sooner you accept the fact, the more prepared you'll be to build the kind of retirement lifestyle you want.



### TIMING IS EVERYTHING



**Saving a little now is better than saving a lot later**

Your retirement will likely be the longest-term savings goal of your entire life. The earlier you start saving, the more time your contributions have to compound and grow.

#### IT PAYS TO START SAVING EARLY

Let's say you put \$10,000 in your 401(k) and do nothing further until it's time to withdraw the balance at age 65:



"The same investment can be worth a lot more when given a little bit more time to grow!"



### RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS

Retirement accounts are designed as an incentive to save for retirement and act like containers for your various investments.

As long as your investments remain in the container, they can grow and accumulate tax-free.



### COMPARING OPTIONS

The most common retirement savings accounts include Traditional IRAs, Roth IRAs and 401(k)s

#### TRADITIONAL IRA

#### ROTH IRA

#### 401(k)

##### Where can I set one up?

At your financial institution

At your financial institution

Through your employer

##### What are the annual contribution limits?

\$6,000 (combined IRA limit)

\$19,000 (if you're under the age of 50)

##### Are my contributions taxed?

No

Contributions are made with pre-tax dollars—contributions may be deducted from your income tax return for that year

Yes

Contributions to a Roth IRA are made with after-tax dollars and cannot be deducted from your income tax

No

Your 401(k) contributions are pre-tax—they come directly from your salary and are not counted toward your taxable income that year

##### When can I make withdrawals?

After age 59½ (to avoid penalties)

After age 59½ (to avoid penalties)

After age 59½ (after age 55 in some cases)

##### Are withdrawals taxed?

Yes

Distributions in retirement are taxed as ordinary income

No

Qualified withdrawals in retirement are tax-free

Yes

Distributions in retirement are taxed as ordinary income

##### Are there any penalties?

An additional 10% in taxes is charged on early withdrawals

You may have to pay taxes and penalties on the earnings in your Roth IRA when you make early withdrawals

Most early withdrawals are taxed as ordinary income and charged an additional 10% penalty fee

##### What makes it a good option?

Because Traditional IRAs are self-directed, you can choose from a wide range of investment options

Unlike Traditional IRAs, Roth IRAs have tax-free withdrawals and have no RMDs (required minimum distributions)

Your employer may offer company match on your 401(k) contributions—free money!

##### What should I look out for?

Traditional IRAs have RMDs, meaning you have to start withdrawing funds after you reach age 70

Unlike the other options, Roth IRAs will not give you tax breaks on your contributions

Limited investment options and higher fees are sometimes associated with 401(k) plans



#### JUST SO YOU KNOW...

The comparison chart above is a simplified guide. Full details and exceptions are not listed here. If you're looking to learn more, visit the IRS.gov website or get in touch with your credit union.

### STARTER PLAN

Retirement savings plans are not "one size fits all," but the following steps are often recommended



1

Contribute enough to meet your 401(k) match

2

Switch over and max out your Roth IRA contribution

3

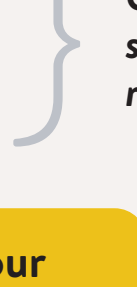
If you have money left over, top up your 401(k)

**Why?** This strategy nets you the free money from your employer match and also takes advantage of your Roth IRA's tax-free withdrawals.

### STRATEGIC SAVING

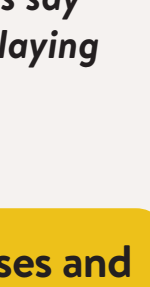
These tips will help you protect and grow your retirement savings

#### Eliminate high-interest debt

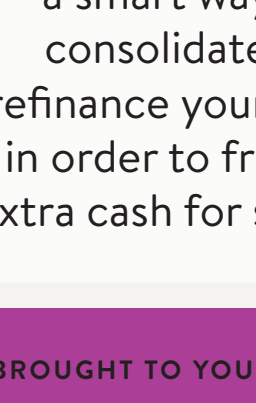


In order for your money to grow, you need to create the right environment—paying down credit cards (and other high-interest debt) should be your #1 priority

#### Build an emergency fund

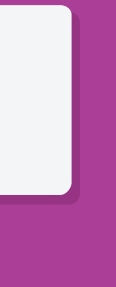


Life happens, but the last thing you need is an unexpected expense taking a bite out of your savings—build an emergency fund to protect your financial goals



One-third of millennials say student loan debt is delaying retirement savings

#### Maximize your repayment plans



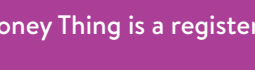
Revisit your loan terms and see if there's a smart way to consolidate or refinance your loans in order to free up extra cash for savings

#### Ditch the excuses and start saving today

Time is on your side when it comes to retirement savings—start small if you have to, but start saving today



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Sources: Investopedia, IRS.gov, NerdWallet, The Motley Fool, Time Inc.