# YOUR 2026 LAST-CHANCE FINANCIAL PLANNING CHECKLIST

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## SHAPE UP YOUR PERSONAL FINANCES FOR A GREAT YEAR-END!

Fall is an ideal time to examine your financial health and update your financial plans. Here is a list of important things to review that might make a difference in your year-end review and plans for next year. Check all that apply. If you have any questions or concerns, I will be happy to go over these items with you and discuss possible scenarios for 2026 and 2027. **Call to schedule a review.**

**Check the box next to any key item that impacts your situation or needs more research or discussion.**

### 1 TAXES

- ☐ Project income for 2026 & 2027.
- ☐ Project 2026 net investment income.
- ☐ Review tax plan in light of One Big Beautiful Bill Act.
- ☐ Review realized and unrealized gains and losses.
- ☐ Collect cost-basis information on sold securities.
- ☐ Review sales of appreciated property like real estate.
- ☐ Check loss carry-forwards from last year
- ☐ Review potential deductions & credits for 2026.
- ☐ Track donations to charity.
- ☐ Review any gifting plans.

### 2 RETIREMENT

- ☐ Max out 401(k) contributions including catch-ups.
- ☐ Max out IRA contributions including catch-ups.
- ☐ Analyze Roth IRA conversion scenarios.
- ☐ Take required minimum distributions.
- ☐ Open a retirement plan if newly self-employed.
- ☐ Check status of all retirement accounts.
- ☐ Consider Social Security claiming options.

### 3 INVESTMENTS

- ☐ Confirm investment goals and strategy.
- ☐ Review asset allocation for rebalancing opportunities.
- ☐ Review fundamentals of portfolio positions.
- ☐ Revisit income and savings needs.
- ☐ Re-examine asset location.
- ☐ Review outstanding loans and mortgages.
- ☐ Review dividend distributions.
- ☐ Review employee stock options.

### 4 INSURANCE

- ☐ Review property and casualty policies.
- ☐ Review costs of current insurance policies.
- ☐ Review health insurance coverage.
- ☐ Identify material changes in life, business, or financial circumstances that may require insurance adjustments.

### 5 MILESTONES

- ☐ 50: Now you can make catch-up contributions to IRAs and some qualified retirement plans.
- ☐ 55: You can take distributions from 401(k) plans without penalty if retired.
- ☐ 59½: You can take distributions from IRAs without penalty.
- ☐ 62–70: You can apply for Social Security benefits.
- ☐ 65: You can apply for Medicare.
- ☐ 73: You must begin taking RMDs from IRAs (if born between the years 1951-1959).

### 6 HEALTH

- ☐ Review employer's health insurance plan.
- ☐ Shop state health insurance exchange.
- ☐ Review Health Savings Account contributions for 2026.
- ☐ Spend any remaining balances in Flexible Spending Accounts.
- ☐ Review Medicare enrollment options.

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## 7 CHANGES

- ☐ Did you move?
- ☐ Did you sell a major asset like your home, business, or other real estate?
- ☐ Did you transfer any major financial assets?
- ☐ Did you refinance your house?
- ☐ Did you change jobs?
- ☐ Did you lose your job?
- ☐ Did you get married?
- ☐ Did you end a marriage?
- ☐ Did you add to the family through birth or adoption?
- ☐ Did you lose a loved one?
- ☐ Do you have a parent or other family member in need of assisted living?
- ☐ Is there a severe illness in the family?
- ☐ Did you receive a gift or inheritance?

## 8 FAMILY

- ☐ Contribute to education accounts.
- ☐ Review and fund trusts.
- ☐ Make any cash gifts to family members.
- ☐ Plan charitable contributions.

## NOTES AND NEXT STEPS:

**Provide updated contact info for any tax professionals, insurance agents, attorneys and other advisors that may need to be consulted.**

| Name | Firm | Phone Number |
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