

Making a List, Checking It Early

A MIDEAR CHECKLIST FOR YEAR-END FINANCIAL PLANNING

It may feel early, but many year-end financial decisions are best made well before December.

Waiting until the end of the year can create unnecessary pressure and limit your options. Taking a few small steps now can give you more time to consider your choices, coordinate the details, and feel confident that everything is being handled.

Think of this as your midyear reminder to get ahead, not catch up.

Retirement Contributions & Roth Planning

Review Retirement Contributions

Check your progress for the year and whether any adjustments may be appropriate.

Consider Roth Planning Opportunities

Review whether a Roth contribution or conversion may fit your tax and retirement strategy.

Leave Time to Evaluate Your Options

Roth planning can affect taxes, cash flow, and long-term retirement income. Allow time to consider the full picture.

Distributions & Retirement Income

Confirm Required Minimum Distributions (RMD)

Determine whether an RMD is required and how much, if any, remains to be taken.

Review the Timing of Withdrawals

Consider how the timing and source of retirement income may affect taxes and cash flow.

Allow Time for Processing

Distributions and related paperwork may take longer as year-end approaches.

Charitable Giving

Consider Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)

If eligible, this can be a tax-efficient way to support charitable goals while satisfying RMD requirements.

Review Giving for the Year

Consider how giving to charity can fit with the rest of your financial plan.

Consider Giving Earlier in the Year

Many charities receive most donations in December. Giving earlier may provide support when it is needed most.

Tax Planning Opportunities

Review Your Current Year Tax Picture

Estimate income, deductions, and potential tax exposure before year-end.

Explore Opportunities to Manage Taxable Income

Timing decisions made now may help improve overall tax efficiency.

Coordinate Across Accounts

Different accounts are taxed differently — reviewing how they work together can help avoid surprises.

Investment & Portfolio Review

Review Portfolio Allocation

Confirm that your investment mix still aligns with your goals and comfort level.

Identify Any Needed Rebalancing

Market movement may have shifted your allocation over time.

Evaluate Gains and Losses

Consider whether any changes may be beneficial from a tax-planning perspective.

Life, Goals & the Bigger Picture

Review Your Overall Financial Plan

Confirm that your plan still reflects your goals, timeline, and current situation.

Consider Any Life Changes

Changes in income, family, or priorities may affect planning decisions.

Review Upcoming Goals and Expenses

Consider major purchases, travel, family milestones, and other anticipated needs.

Year-end planning does not have to feel rushed.

Starting early can create more clarity, reduce stress, and give you more control over the decisions that matter most. Taking care of a few things now can leave more room to enjoy the holidays, spend time with family, and focus on the moments that make the season special.

If any of these items brought up questions or reminded you of something that needs attention, talk with us. We're always happy to help you think through what may make sense for your situation.