

Know your IRA options



CAPITAL
GROUP®

AMERICAN
FUNDS®

Put an IRA
to work
for your
retirement



1 | What you need to know about IRAs



What's an IRA?

An individual retirement account (IRA) offers tax benefits that can help you save the money you'll need for your retirement. IRAs come in two versions:

- **Traditional IRA.** Invest after-tax money (may be deductible when filing taxes); defer taxes on earnings until withdrawal, usually during retirement.
- **Roth IRA.** Invest after-tax money; withdrawal of earnings and contributions are tax-free, if conditions are met. (See page 6.)

Both choices offer significant tax advantages and investment compounding potential, giving you the flexibility to make withdrawals during retirement as tax rates rise or fall. (See page 4 to learn more and find out about eligibility and deductibility.)

Why would I need an IRA?

- We're living longer and, as a result, your retirement could last 30 years or more. This, however, means your lifestyle during those years may be significantly impacted by the amount you've saved during your working years.
- Social Security is only intended to replace about 40% of your pre-retirement income, which means accumulating the other 60% is your responsibility.
- **An IRA could:**
 - Be particularly important if your employer doesn't offer a retirement plan – or if you're already saving the maximum in your employer's plan, but want to save more.
 - Supplement other retirement income sources such as Social Security, pensions, employer-sponsored plans, sale of property, inheritances and annuities, while also acting as a potential hedge against inflation.
 - Help cover health care costs during retirement, as medical bills are often more costly and frequent as we age.

When you might consider an IRA



Changing jobs?

If you have money in a retirement plan when changing employers, consider the pros and cons of all your options, which may include leaving the money in the plan or rolling the assets into an IRA.



About to retire?

As you prepare to retire, you may wish to consider consolidating retirement plan assets into a traditional or Roth IRA. Depending on the employer plan's distribution options, this may make sense for you.



Spouse not employed?

Although you must earn an income to contribute to an IRA account, the IRS allows couples who file as "married filing jointly" to open an IRA in the nonworking spouse's name.

This material was not written for and is not intended to be used by any taxpayer for the purpose of avoiding penalties that may be imposed on the taxpayer under U.S. federal tax law. Each taxpayer should seek advice from an independent tax advisor based on the taxpayer's particular circumstances.

Investments are not FDIC-insured, nor are they deposits of or guaranteed by a bank or any other entity, so they may lose value.

The benefits of a traditional IRA

- **No income limits** – Everyone is eligible to open a traditional IRA.
- **Annual income tax deductions** – Part or all of annual contributions to a traditional IRA may be deductible on your tax return. (See pages 4 and 5 for more information.)
- **Bankruptcy protection** – Generally, contributions to traditional IRAs are protected from creditors.
- **Estate planning** – Beneficiaries will not pay taxes at the point of inheritance, but must begin taking required minimum distributions, which are taxable.



We chose a traditional IRA

Age: 48

Filing status: Married

Modified adjusted gross income: \$152,000

“We picked a traditional IRA to complement my husband’s employer plan. Our traditional IRA allows us to deduct the contribution on our tax return – a definite advantage.”

The benefits of a Roth IRA

- **Tax-free growth** – Earnings are tax-free if you (1) delay withdrawals until at least five years after the first contribution made to a Roth IRA set up for your benefit, and (2) you’re at least age 59½, disabled or using the money for a first-home purchase (\$10,000 lifetime limit).
- **Liquidity** – Contributions to your Roth IRA can be withdrawn at any time, although earnings will incur a penalty if withdrawal doesn’t meet certain conditions.
- **Delay withdrawals as long as you like** – You are not required to make minimum withdrawals during your lifetime. This gives you the ability to leave money in your IRA beyond age 70½, which means your assets can continue to grow tax-free.
- **Estate planning** – Your IRA beneficiaries receive the inheritance without having to pay income taxes, however, generally, all of the interest in the Roth IRA must be distributed within five years or be paid as an annuity over the expected lifetime of the beneficiary.



I chose a Roth IRA

Age: 38

Filing status: Single

Modified adjusted gross income: \$88,000

“Although I could take a tax deduction for a traditional IRA, I’m going with a Roth because I like the idea of taking tax-free distributions when I reach age 59½.* Who knows how high federal income taxes will be by the time I retire?”

* Distributions are tax-free as long as you’re age 59½ or older and it’s been at least five years since the first Roth contribution was made. (See “Withdrawals” on page 6.)

IRA contribution limits

	If younger than age 50	If age 50 or older
2018	\$5,500	\$6,500
2019	\$6,000	\$7,000

Future contribution limits may be adjusted for cost-of-living increases. Contributions for the current tax year must be made by April 15 of the following year, unless April 15 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday. In those cases, the due date is delayed until the next business day.

2 | Determine your eligibility for IRAs



What's your MAGI?

Your modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) is used to determine your eligibility to claim deductions for traditional IRA contributions and determines how much you may directly contribute to a Roth IRA. MAGI is calculated by subtracting certain expenses and allowable adjustments from your gross income.

For more information, see below and on page 5. To determine your MAGI, review your most recent IRS income tax filing or contact your tax advisor.

Cutting to the chase

- Each year until the year you reach age 70½, you may contribute money to a traditional IRA as long as you have earned income from employment.
- However, your ability to deduct contributions to a traditional IRA will depend on whether you participate in a retirement plan at work, your tax filing status and your MAGI.
- Your ability to contribute to a Roth IRA depends on your household income. (For more details, see the chart at the bottom of page 5.)

Traditional IRA tax deductibility

If you **are covered by a retirement plan at work**, use this table:

If your filing status is ...	And your MAGI for 2018 is ...	And your MAGI for 2019 is ...	Then you can take ...
Single or head of household	\$63,000 or less	\$64,000 or less	full deduction
	\$63,001 – \$72,999	\$64,001 – \$73,999	partial deduction
	\$73,000 or more	\$74,000 or more	no deduction
Married filing jointly or qualifying widow(er)	\$101,000 or less	\$103,000 or less	full deduction
	\$101,001 – \$120,999	\$103,001 – \$122,999	partial deduction
	\$121,000 or more	\$123,000 or more	no deduction
Married filing separately	less than \$10,000	less than \$10,000	partial deduction
	\$10,000 or more	\$10,000 or more	no deduction

Traditional IRA tax deductibility

If you **are not covered by a retirement plan at work** (a spouse or married partner could be covered), use this table:

If your filing status is ...	And your MAGI for 2018 is ...	And your MAGI for 2019 is ...	Then you can take ...
Single, head of household or qualifying widow(er)	any amount	any amount	full deduction
Married filing jointly or separately with a spouse who is not covered by a plan at work	any amount	any amount	full deduction
Married filing jointly with a spouse who is covered by a plan at work	\$189,000 or less	\$193,000 or less	full deduction
	\$189,001 - \$198,999	\$193,001 - \$202,999	partial deduction
	\$199,000 or more	\$203,000 or more	no deduction
Married filing separately with a spouse who is covered by a plan at work	less than \$10,000	less than \$10,000	partial deduction
	\$10,000 or more	\$10,000 or more	no deduction

If you file separately and did not live with your spouse at any time during the year, your IRA deduction is determined under the "single" filing status.

Roth IRA eligibility

If you **are not covered by a retirement plan at work** (a spouse or married partner could be covered), use this table:

If your filing status is ...	And your MAGI for 2018 is ...	And your MAGI for 2019 is ...	Then you can contribute ...
Single, head of household, or married filing separately , and you did not live with your spouse at any time during the year	\$119,999 or less	\$121,999 or less	full contribution
	\$120,000 - \$134,999	\$122,000 - \$136,999	partial contribution
	\$135,000 or more	\$137,000 or more	not eligible
Married filing jointly or qualifying widow(er)	\$188,999 or less	\$192,999 or less	full contribution
	\$189,000 - \$198,999	\$193,000 - \$202,999	partial contribution
	\$199,000 or more	\$203,000 or more	not eligible
Married filing separately , and you lived with your spouse at any time during the year	Less than \$10,000		reduced amount
	\$10,000 or more		nothing/not eligible

3 | Comparing IRA options

This side-by-side chart provides a comparison of each IRA option and the various factors you should keep in mind. For additional information about distributions, tax treatments and more, see *IRS Publication 590-A* and *IRS Publication 590-B*.

	Traditional IRA	Roth IRA
Annual tax credit	The maximum is 50% of your annual contribution, not to exceed \$2,000, so long as your household income doesn't exceed certain limits.	
Tax advantages	Earnings, until withdrawn, grow tax-deferred.	Earnings grow tax-free if certain conditions are met. <i>See below.</i>
Withdrawals	<p>Withdrawals are taxable and those made before age 59½ are subject to a 10% federal tax penalty unless the IRA owner is disabled or qualifies for one of the following exceptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taken as substantially equal periodic payments • Used for one of the following payments or purchases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Certain unreimbursed medical bills – Health insurance premiums during unemployment lasting at least 12 weeks – Qualified education expenses – First-time homebuyer* • Taken by beneficiaries 	<p>Withdrawals of contributions are always tax-free and penalty-free. The same is true of earnings, if the withdrawal is made at least five years after the first contribution was made to a Roth IRA set up for your benefit, and the IRA owner meets one of the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age 59½ or older • Disability • First-time homebuyer* <p>If these conditions are not met, earnings are taxable and may be subject to a penalty, unless an exception applies. (See the traditional IRA "Withdrawals" section to the left.)</p>
Age limit for contributions	<p>Withdrawals made by beneficiaries are not subject to the 10% early withdrawal tax penalty. In addition, if the first Roth contribution was made at least five years earlier, these withdrawals aren't subject to taxes either.</p> <p>Contributions can be made as long as the owner has earned income and is younger than age 70½ at the end of the calendar year for which it is being made.</p>	None, as long as the IRA owner's income meets the annual eligibility requirements.
Required minimum distributions (RMDs)	<p>Must begin taking RMDs no later than April 1 of the year following the year in which the owner reached age 70½.</p> <p>For beneficiaries, distribution rules vary depending on the age of and relationship to owner at death.</p>	Not required during the Roth IRA owner's lifetime.
Taxability of retirement plan rollovers	May roll any non-Roth portion of a retirement plan account into a traditional IRA without tax consequences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rolling the non-Roth portion of a retirement plan account into a Roth IRA is a taxable event, but the amount is not subject to a 10% early withdrawal penalty. • Rolling over the Roth portion isn't a taxable event.

* Up to \$10,000 lifetime maximum for an individual who has had no ownership in a principal residence during the three-year period ending on the date of purchase of the property.

Key IRA age milestones and tips

Catch-up contributions	Penalty-free withdrawals	Social Security	Take your RMDs
Age 50	Age 59½	Age 70	Age 70½
Starting at age 50, your annual contribution limit increases, enabling you to put more money into an IRA.	Once you turn 59½, you are permitted to withdraw funds from your IRAs without incurring a penalty, even if you are still working.	While you cannot contribute to your own IRA after reaching age 70, you can still contribute to a younger spouse's IRA.	You must begin taking RMDs from your traditional IRAs upon reaching age 70½, whether or not you have actually retired from work.†

† You are not required to take RMDs from a Roth IRA during your lifetime.

4 | Other considerations

Can I convert a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA?

Yes, you may convert a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA regardless of your income or tax-filing status. A Roth conversion may be worth considering if you:

- Can leave the money in the account for at least five years after your first contribution and not withdraw assets until you reach age 59½.
- Expect your tax rate to rise in the future and, as a result, would rather pay income taxes now.
- Can pay the resulting income taxes from a source other than the IRA so that the full amount of the traditional IRA goes into the Roth IRA. You may be able to offset the tax due on the conversion if you have other losses or deductions on your tax return.

Could I be eligible to contribute to both types of IRAs?

Yes, as long as you meet eligibility rules for both traditional and Roth IRAs, and your combined contribution doesn't exceed the annual contribution limits shown on page 3. The advantage of investing in both a tax-deferred account (such as a 401(k) plan or a traditional IRA) and a tax-free account (such as a Roth IRA) is that you'll gain the flexibility to choose which account to make withdrawals from during retirement as your tax rate rises or falls.

Does having multiple IRAs affect the amount that is considered taxable on a Roth IRA conversion?

Yes. Even if all of the assets are not converting, the IRS requires that the tax calculation accounts for the value of all your IRA assets owned on December 31 of the conversion year. Taxable amounts converted are treated as taxable income; consult a tax advisor for your specific scenario.

Should I withdraw money from my IRA before I retire?

In moments of stress, reaching for the easiest solution is often attractive, but not always wise. While financial circumstances may require you to take a withdrawal from your IRA, doing so can carry a penalty and additional taxes. So, before you take an early withdrawal, review the following considerations:

- Is this a financial emergency?
- Have you considered other financial sources?
- What impact will it have on your long-term retirement savings program?

Is your beneficiary designation up to date?

Who will inherit your IRA account? Some investors forget to name a beneficiary or update an obsolete designation. In the event you fail to name a beneficiary, the IRA agreement explains how your account will be distributed.

Are you on track for retirement?

To help, we encourage you to:

- ☐ Review your quarterly statements.
- ☐ Check in with your financial advisor at least once a year.
- ☐ Discuss with your financial advisor whether you're still eligible to contribute to your IRA. For example, contributions can no longer be made to a traditional IRA after the calendar year in which you reach age 70½.

Ready? Set? Go!

Now that you know more about IRAs and the powerful role one or more could play in your financial well-being during retirement, it may be time to consider opening an IRA with American Funds. Contact your financial advisor today to get started.

The Capital Advantage[®]

Since 1931, Capital Group, home of American Funds, has helped investors pursue long-term investment success. Our consistent approach – in combination with The Capital SystemSM – has resulted in superior outcomes.

Aligned with investor success

We base our decisions on a long-term perspective, which we believe aligns our goals with the interests of our clients. Our portfolio managers average 27 years of investment experience, including 20 years at our company, reflecting a career commitment to our long-term approach.¹

The Capital System

The Capital System combines individual accountability with teamwork. Funds using The Capital System are divided into portions that are managed independently by investment professionals with diverse backgrounds, ages and investment approaches. An extensive global research effort is the backbone of our system.

American Funds' superior outcomes

Equity funds have beaten their Lipper peer indexes in 92% of 10-year periods and 99% of 20-year periods.² Fixed income funds have helped investors achieve diversification through attention to correlation between bonds and equities.³ Fund management fees have been among the lowest in the industry.⁴

¹Portfolio manager experience as of December 31, 2018.

²Based on Class F-2 share results for rolling periods through December 31, 2018. Periods covered are the shorter of the fund's lifetime or since the comparable Lipper index inception date (except Capital Income Builder and SMALLCAP World Fund, for which the Lipper average was used). Expenses differ for each share class, so results will vary.

³Based on Class F-2 share results, as of December 31, 2018. Fourteen of our 15 American Funds fixed income funds that have been in existence for the three-year period showed a three-year correlation below 0.2. Standard & Poor's 500 Composite Index was used as an equity market proxy. Correlation based on monthly total returns. Correlation is a statistical measure of how two securities move in relation to each other. A correlation ranges from -1 to 1. A positive correlation close to 1 implies that as one security moves, either up or down, the other security will move in "lockstep," in the same direction. A negative correlation close to -1 indicates that the securities have moved in the opposite direction.

⁴On average, our management fees were in the lowest quintile 70% of the time, based on the 20-year period ended December 31, 2018, versus comparable Lipper categories, excluding funds of funds.

Class F-2 shares were first offered on August 1, 2008. Class F-2 share results prior to the date of first sale are hypothetical based on Class A share results without a sales charge, adjusted for typical estimated expenses. Results for certain funds with an inception date after August 1, 2008, also include hypothetical returns because those funds' Class F-2 shares sold after the funds' date of first offering. Please see americanfunds.com for more information on specific expense adjustments and the actual dates of first sale.

In addition to the more than 40 American Funds, we offer the American Funds Target Date Retirement Series[®] and American Funds Retirement Income Portfolio SeriesSM, as well as CollegeAmerica[®], a 529 education savings plan sponsored by Virginia529SM, Coverdell Education Savings Accounts, the American Funds Insurance Series[®] variable annuity funds and a full line of retirement plan solutions. For details, please contact your financial professional or visit americanfunds.com.

Investors should carefully consider investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses. This and other important information is contained in the fund prospectuses and summary prospectuses, which can be obtained from a financial professional and should be read carefully before investing.

This content, developed by Capital Group, home of American Funds, should not be used as a primary basis for investment decisions and is not intended to serve as impartial investment or fiduciary advice.

All Capital Group trademarks mentioned are owned by The Capital Group Companies, Inc., an affiliated company or fund. All other company and product names mentioned are the property of their respective companies.

American Funds Distributors, Inc., member FINRA.