

# Retirement Contribution Planner

## Step 1: Know Your Retirement Accounts

- 401(k) (Traditional, Roth, After-Tax )
- IRA (Traditional or Roth – tax advantages vary)
- SEP/SIMPLE IRA (For business owners or small firms)
- Brokerage Accounts (For additional investing beyond retirement limits)

## Step 2: Track Your Contributions

- | ➤ Year | 401(k)  | Employer Match | IRA     | Brokerage |
|--------|---------|----------------|---------|-----------|
| ➤ 2025 | \$_____ | \$_____        | \$_____ | \$_____   |
| ➤ 2026 | \$_____ | \$_____        | \$_____ | \$_____   |
| ➤ 2027 | \$_____ | \$_____        | \$_____ | \$_____   |
- Tip: If you're 50+, take advantage of catch-up contributions to boost savings.

## Step 3: Employer Match – Don't Leave Money on the Table!

- Check if your firm offers a match (e.g., 100% up to 5% of salary)
- Contribute at least enough to get the full match (free money!)
- Consider maximizing contributions to reduce taxable income
- Example: If your salary is \$200,000 and your firm matches 5%, that's an extra \$10,000 per year added to your retirement—just by contributing!

## Step 4: Investment Strategy – Where Should You Invest?

- Aggressive (Stocks & ETFs, Growth Funds) → Early Career
- Balanced (Stocks, Bonds, Real Estate) → Mid-Career
- Conservative (Bonds, Fixed Income) → Pre-Retirement
- Diversify your portfolio to minimize risk while maximizing returns.

## Step 5: Set Your Retirement Goal

- Target Retirement Age: \_\_\_\_\_ years old
- Savings Goal: \$\_\_\_\_\_
- Current Progress: \$\_\_\_\_\_
- Use a retirement calculator to project your savings growth over time.

### ***Pro Tip: Automate & Reassess Annually***

- Set up automatic contributions to your retirement accounts
- Re-evaluate your investment strategy based on market trends
- Adjust contributions as your income grows