Retirement Readiness Checklist

A comprehensive starting point for thinking through your retirement readiness across 12 key areas. The first 7 cover the foundations most advisors address. The final 5 go deeper — into the stewardship and purpose questions that many people overlook. This checklist is educational and not intended as personalized financial advice. Use it as a conversation starter — not a final answer.

INCOME PLANNING

- [ ] Do you know your projected monthly income from all sources in retirement?
- [ ] Have you mapped out when you plan to claim Social Security and why?
- [ ] Do you understand how each of your income sources will be taxed in retirement?
- [ ] Have you considered how multiple income streams may affect your tax bracket?
- [ ] If applicable, do you have a plan for Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs)?

SPENDING & CASH FLOW

- [ ] Have you estimated your monthly expenses in retirement — including the early, active years?
- [ ] Do you have a realistic picture of what healthcare costs may look like in retirement?
- [ ] Have you thought through how inflation might affect your purchasing power over time?
- [ ] Do you have an emergency cash reserve separate from your investment accounts?
- [ ] Have you reviewed your current spending to understand your baseline?

INVESTMENT & PORTFOLIO

- [ ] Does your current investment allocation reflect your retirement timeline and risk tolerance?
- [ ] Have you reviewed your portfolio for concentration risk (single stock, sector, or employer)?
- [ ] Do you understand the difference between tax-deferred and tax-free account growth?
- [ ] Have you reviewed your beneficiary designations recently on all accounts?
- [ ] Has your risk tolerance been formally assessed in the last 1–2 years?

PROTECTION & LEGACY

- [ ] Do you have adequate life insurance coverage for your current life stage?
- [ ] Have you considered long-term care needs and how they might be funded?
- [ ] Do you have a will, trust, or estate plan in place and recently reviewed?
- [ ] Have you thought through your legacy goals — what you hope to leave behind?
- [ ] Have you considered charitable giving strategies (DAF, appreciated securities, etc.)?

THE BIGGER PICTURE

- [ ] Do you have a clear sense of what you want your day-to-day retirement to look like?
- [ ] Have you discussed retirement plans, timing, and expectations with your spouse or partner?
- [ ] Do you have a plan for staying engaged, purposeful, and active in retirement?
- [ ] Does your financial plan reflect your values — not just your account balance?
- [ ] Have you thought about what role generosity and giving will play in retirement?

PLANNING FUNDAMENTALS

- [ ] Have you met with a financial professional to review your plan in the last 12 months?
- [ ] Do you have a written financial plan — not just a rough idea in your head?
- [ ] Is your plan reviewed and updated regularly as your life circumstances change?

■ BONUS: THE STEWARDSHIP LAYER — 5 AREAS MOST PEOPLE OVERLOOK

These five questions go beyond the standard checklist. They are drawn from the Stewardship Planning Process and reflect the values-driven approach of a Certified Kingdom Advisor (CKA®). Many people approaching retirement have never been asked these questions — but they often carry the most meaning.

- [ ] Have you clearly defined what your money is actually for — beyond the account balance?
- [ ] Do you have an intentional generosity plan — not just for inheritance, but for giving purposefully during your lifetime?
- [ ] Have you defined what you’re retiring to, not just from? What does a meaningful, purposeful retirement look like day to day?
- [ ] Have you examined the financial beliefs and patterns you’ve carried since childhood — and whether they’re still serving you?
- [ ] Have you considered what you are modeling for your children or grandchildren when it comes to money, generosity, and stewardship?

Not sure where you stand on some of these?

That’s exactly what a planning conversation is for. Reach out to schedule a complimentary consultation at lavoie.finance.
