

## 6 TO 10 YEARS FROM RETIREMENT

### 1 TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A HIGHER SALARY BY SAVING EVEN MORE.

You're now likely entering your highest-earning years. Couple the higher income with lower kid-related costs, and you have more discretionary income to sock away for retirement or pay down debt.

### 2 IF YOU'RE OVER 50, TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HIGHER CONTRIBUTION LIMITS TO RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS.

The year you turn 50 you can contribute an extra \$1,000 to your IRA (for a total of \$6,500 in 2017) and an extra \$6,000 to a 401(k) for a total of \$24,000 in 2017.

### 3 CONSIDER PAYING OFF YOUR MORTGAGE WITH EXTRA SAVINGS.

If you're already maxing out your retirement accounts, consider paying off your mortgage with extra resources. Going into retirement mortgage-free means you'll need less income -- plus you'll have extra peace of mind knowing that no matter what happens, at least you own your house.

### 4 REQUEST AN ESTIMATE OF YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS.

If you are age 60 or over you should receive a statement in the mail every year, three months before your birthday. If you want a more recent estimate, visit [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov) or call 1-800-772-1213.

### 5 ORDER PENSION ESTIMATES.

If you will be pension eligible ask for estimates of your benefit based on various dates. Don't expect these numbers to be written in stone. Your annuity options are easier and more predictable to estimate. Your lump sum option could/will fluctuate for managers every quarter and for craft every year -- based on interest rates.

#### \*KEY POINT

Be sure you understand pension eligibility requirements. For you to be pension eligible you must meet the following criteria:

#### You must be:

1. Age 50 with at least 25 years of service or
2. Age 55 with at least 20 years of service or
3. Age 65 with at least 10 years of service or
4. Have at least 30 years of service

**If you fall into any of the above listed categories you are pension eligible -- if you leave the company before attaining one of these sets of requirements you will leave a substantial amount of money on the table.**

#### Take drastic action -- if necessary!!

Many people reaching their 50s hope to retire within the next 10 years, only to find they haven't saved enough. If you'd like to retire within a decade but are behind in your savings, take a magnifying glass to your budget to see where you could spend less. Consider selling things you no longer need and investing the proceeds (including your home, if you find yourself with extra square footage). Find a side gig or consider working part-time in retirement.

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