



LAUREL WEALTH P L A N N I N G

Retirement Planning: Creating Your Retirement Lifestyle Vision

As you plan for retirement, accurately assessing your desired retirement lifestyle is critical. Once you've left your job, it can be tough to go back!

Three Steps to Retirement

1. Analyze at least one year of historical spending. This is important to help capture your likely spending needs going forward.
 - If you can, choose a fairly recent representative year.
 - Review check registers (or bank statements) and credit card summaries (or credit card statements).
 - See sample spending categories attached.

To track data, you can use an application (Quicken, for example), a spreadsheet, or just pen and paper. *If budgeting looks daunting, invite a friend to help you over a glass of wine. We've seen this help time and again.*

2. Adjust your budget for changes to your situation, either spending that will no longer be needed, or new spending that is desired. Some examples:
 - Health insurance, or Medicare & supplemental coverage.
 - Additional travel, domestic and/or international.
 - Second home: mortgage or rental cost; home utilities and maintenance; and travel to and from.
3. Include a yearly average for irregular large expenses, i.e., expenses that do not recur every year.
 - a. Some examples: next car cost; home improvements, remodels, furniture, etc.
 - b. To help avoid missing items, do your best to remember (and research, if possible) spending on irregular large items over the last several years. Then average this.

As fee-only, fiduciary advisors, we've helped many people with their retirement planning. Contact us if you would like assistance with your personal finances.