



The Financial Aspects of Aging

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May 5, 2007 Summit on the Issues of Aging: Congressman Michael C. Burgess



As one ages, risks change and grow, requiring new skills

- Changing characteristics of risks
 - Shorter time horizon
 - Critical to near future, not the distant future
- New skills required – how do we successfully transition:
 - from a position of robust future earning capacity
 - to a position of limited earning capacity and consumption mode?

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What financial-related risks do we face as we near retirement?

- Longevity Risk
- Inflation Risk
- Unexpected Expenses
- Variability of Investment Returns
- Spending Risk – Too Much or Too Little
- Bad Timing

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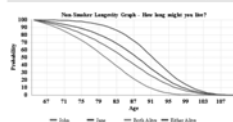


Life Expectancies are rising

What If Comparison - Longevity Graph

How long might you live?

Percent you will live to age (Women)	2000		2010		2020	
	Age	Number	Age	Number	Age	Number
50%	85	50	85	50	84	50
75%	80	50	80	50	79	50
90%	75	50	75	50	74	50
95%	72	50	72	50	71	50



All calculations based on Annuity 2000 Mortality Table.

Source: MoneyGuidePro

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The Challenge for future retirees will be great

- Like it or not, most retirees will be responsible for providing for more of their retirement cash flow themselves than previous generations
 - Projected future Social Security and Medicare liabilities suggest less future benefits
 - Corporations are shifting from defined benefit pension plans to defined contribution plans
 - Corporations are cutting back or eliminating retiree health care programs

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Certain issues are more critical than ever

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>Social Security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When should each of us start receiving social security? Factors to consider include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Health – Family History – Age gap with spouse – Earned income amount vs. spousal amount – Other sources of income • Often, man should delay as long as possible | <p>Health Insurance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If one spouse is younger and not yet 65, source of coverage until eligible for Medicare? • Unexpected changes to retiree plans • Long-term care • Medical breakthroughs |
| <p>Minimizing IRA Taxation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Often, taking IRA withdrawals prior to the start of RMDs at age 70 ½ can lower your long-term taxes and increase your cash flow | |

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Retirees now need a different skill-set to meet these challenges

- Negative impact of reverse dollar-cost-averaging
- How to structure investment portfolio to limit downside variability of investment returns, while balancing against inflation risk
- How to develop appropriate spending budgets, and knowing when to adjust them

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A helpful approach is to maintain maximum flexibility

- Try to postpone decisions as long as possible if they are irrevocable or expensive to undo
 - Delaying start of Social Security to increase monthly benefit amount
 - Avoiding high cost variable annuities that have significant surrender penalties
- A mixture of tax-deferred, tax-free, and taxable investments can maximize your after-tax cash flow, especially in your 60's
- Keep expenses as low as possible in order to maximize cash flow

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Use Investment "Pools"

- | Three Pools | The Benefit |
|--|---|
| 1. Cash pool covering 12 months of expenses | • Helps limit Downside Risk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – At least a two year period for an investment to recover in value before needing to sell for income |
| 2. Short-term bond pool covering 12 months of expenses | • Helps with Inflation and Longevity Risks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Pool 3 can be invested more aggressively – Less need to sell investments at inopportune times |
| 3. Investment pool of remaining investment assets appropriately diversified across various asset classes | |

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Consider annuitizing a portion of your investments

- I'm referring to immediate, fixed annuities
- Create your own defined benefit pension plan
- Consider laddering your annuities
 - For example, if you want to annuitize \$500,000, consider buying a \$100,000 annuity each year for 5 years
- Create your own "Longevity Risk Annuity"
 - At age 65, create a fourth investment pool invested 70% in an S&P500 index fund and 30% in a bond index fund
 - Don't touch this account, other than to rebalance to the 70/30 split, for 20 years
 - At age 85, if you are still in good health, you can annuitize this pool and provide a wonderful income stream for the rest of your life

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Get your financial affairs in order, with the right legal documents in place

- In the event of incapacitation or death, make sure that someone you trust has access to and the ability to manage your financial affairs
 - A wonderful book, called the **Beneficiary Directory**, by Mark H. Kaizerman, provides step-by-step direction for this
- Make sure you have the legal documents in place not only for death, but for incapacitation

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