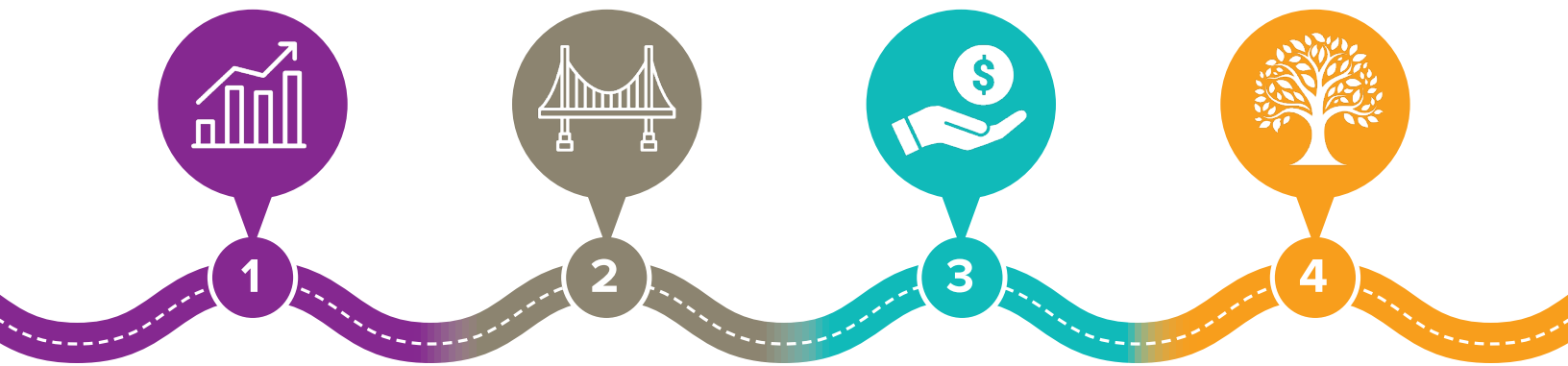


The Retirement Tax Map

*How To Think About Taxes
Before, During, And After Retirement*

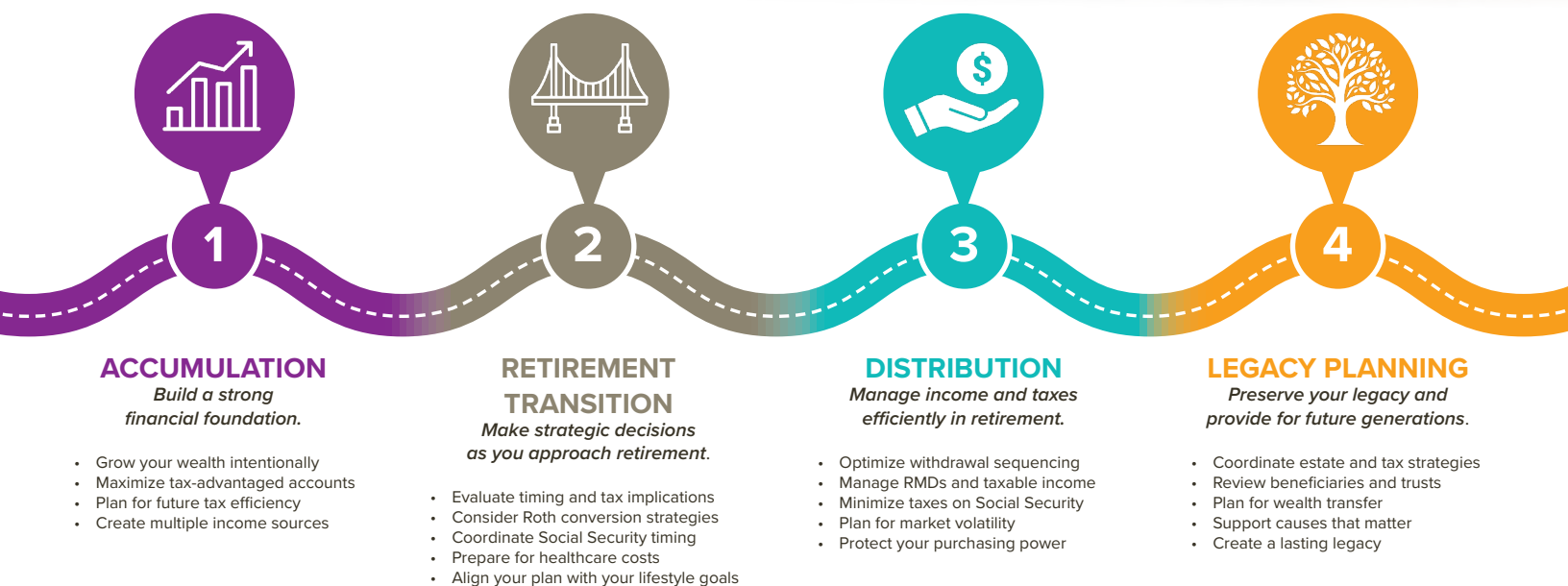


A ROADMAP FOR EVERY STAGE
OF YOUR RETIREMENT JOURNEY



The Retirement Tax Map

How To Think About Taxes Before, During, And After Retirement



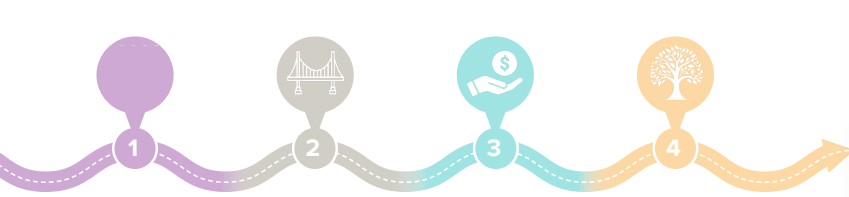
Most people spend years preparing for retirement. Far fewer spend enough time preparing for how taxes may impact it.

The decisions you make before and during retirement can significantly affect how much income you keep, how efficiently assets transfer to loved ones, and how confident you feel about the future.

A thoughtful retirement strategy is about more than investments alone. It's about understanding how income, taxes, timing, estate planning, and long-term goals work together.

This guide highlights several key areas individuals and families should consider as they prepare for retirement and beyond.

“ Retirement planning is no longer just about growing wealth. It's about protecting it wisely. ”



Before Retirement

*The Earlier Tax Planning Starts,
The More Options You May Have*

Many retirement planning decisions are most effective years before retirement actually begins. Proactive planning can help create greater flexibility, reduce future tax burdens, and position income more efficiently later in life.

Areas to Consider Before Retirement



TAX DIVERSIFICATION

Many investors accumulate the majority of retirement savings in tax-deferred accounts. While these accounts offer benefits during working years, future withdrawals may create larger taxable income streams in retirement.

A diversified strategy may include:

- Traditional retirement accounts
- Roth accounts
- Taxable investment accounts
- Cash reserves



Balancing future tax exposure across multiple account types can create more flexibility later.



INCOME TIMING MATTERS

The years leading up to retirement often create important planning opportunities.

Strategic timing around:

- Retirement account withdrawals
- Roth conversions
- Business transitions
- Sale of appreciated assets
- Social Security timing



Can significantly impact long-term tax outcomes.



PREPARING FOR RETIREMENT

Income Retirement income frequently comes from multiple sources:

- Investment accounts
- Social Security
- Pensions
- Real estate income
- Farm or business assets



Without coordination, these income streams can unintentionally push retirees into higher tax brackets.



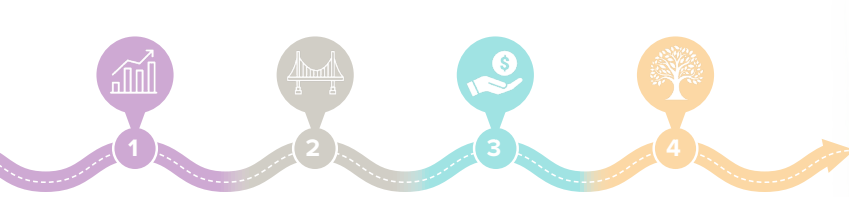
TAX DIVERSIFICATION MISTAKES

- Waiting too long to discuss tax strategy
- Assuming taxes will decrease automatically in retirement
- Overconcentrating assets in one account type
- Failing to coordinate financial and estate plans
- Delaying conversations around legacy goals

“

What works while building wealth may not work while withdrawing it.

”



During Retirement

Retirement Income Planning Is About More Than Withdrawals

Once retirement begins, the focus often shifts from accumulation to distribution. How income is withdrawn may be just as important as how assets are invested.

A coordinated strategy can help retirees maintain flexibility while potentially reducing unnecessary tax exposure.



Key Retirement Tax Considerations



WITHDRAWAL SEQUENCING

The order in which retirement assets are accessed may affect:

- Taxable income
- Medicare premium thresholds
- Social Security taxation
- Long-term portfolio sustainability

Thoughtful withdrawal coordination may help improve overall retirement efficiency.



REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTIONS (RMDs)

As retirees reach required distribution ages, mandatory withdrawals can increase taxable income and create planning challenges if not anticipated early.

Planning ahead may help reduce future surprises.



SOCIAL SECURITY TAXATION

Many retirees are surprised to learn that Social Security benefits may become partially taxable depending on total household income.

Coordinating withdrawals and income sources can help create more predictability.



HEALTHCARE & MEDICARE PLANNING

Healthcare costs and Medicare surcharges can become significant expenses during retirement. Income levels may impact:

- Medicare Part B premiums
- IRMAA surcharges
- Long-term care considerations

These factors are often overlooked in retirement planning conversations.



MARKET VOLATILITY & EMOTIONAL DECISIONS

Headlines Change Quickly. Long-Term Strategies Shouldn't.

Periods of economic uncertainty often lead investors to focus narrowly on market performance, but retirement planning decisions rarely exist in isolation. Changes in the market can also affect withdrawal timing, taxable income, portfolio sequencing, Social Security strategies, and long-term legacy goals.

Without a coordinated retirement strategy, emotional decisions during volatile markets can create

unnecessary tax burdens and disrupt long-term financial goals. A thoughtful plan helps align key areas such as:

- Investment positioning
- Retirement income timing
- Tax-efficient withdrawals
- Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs)
- Roth conversion opportunities
- Estate and legacy considerations

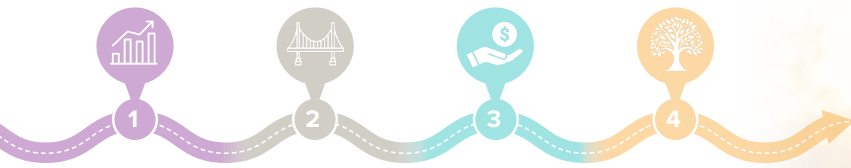
The goal is not simply reacting to markets. It's understanding how financial decisions today may affect income, taxes, and flexibility years into the future.

This is where comprehensive financial planning becomes especially valuable. Coordinating investment strategy with tax planning, retirement income, and estate considerations may help create greater clarity during uncertain periods while keeping long-term goals aligned.

“

Confidence often comes from having a strategy before uncertainty arrives.

”



Legacy & Long-Term Planning

Protecting Wealth Means Planning Beyond Retirement

For many families, retirement planning eventually becomes legacy planning. As wealth grows and life circumstances evolve, financial decisions often become more interconnected with taxes, family dynamics, business ownership, charitable goals, and long-term asset protection.

A well-structured legacy strategy is not simply about passing assets on. It's about helping ensure those assets transfer intentionally, efficiently, and in alignment with your goals.

Legacy Planning Considerations



BENEFICIARY COORDINATION

Beneficiary designations often override instructions outlined in wills or trusts, yet many households fail to review them regularly after major life changes.

Outdated beneficiaries, improperly titled accounts, or inconsistencies between retirement accounts and estate documents can create unintended consequences for loved ones and potentially expose assets to unnecessary taxes, delays, or family conflict.

Areas to review include:

- IRAs and retirement accounts
- Life insurance policies
- Transfer-on-death accounts
- Trust-owned assets
- Business succession arrangements

As tax laws and family situations evolve, beneficiary coordination should evolve alongside them.



TRUST & ESTATE PLANNING

Sophisticated Planning Often Begins With Structure

Many families assume trusts are only relevant for ultra-high-net-worth households. In reality, strategic trust planning can play an important role in helping families preserve control, reduce complexity, and protect assets across generations.

Depending on family goals and financial circumstances, advanced planning strategies may help:

- Coordinate business or farmland transitions
- Protect assets for heirs
- Support charitable giving goals
- Create greater privacy
- Reduce probate complications
- Improve tax efficiency for future generations
- Structure wealth transfers over time instead of lump sums

For business owners, landowners, and multi-generational families, proactive estate planning may become increasingly important as asset values appreciate and transitions approach.



PREPARING THE NEXT GENERATION

Wealth Transfer Is Also About Communication

One of the greatest challenges families face is not necessarily transferring assets. It's preparing the next generation to manage them responsibly and confidently.

Without clear communication, even carefully designed plans can create confusion, tension, or uncertainty among family members.

Important conversations may include:

- Family values and intentions
- Business or farmland succession
- Charitable priorities
- Expectations around inherited wealth
- Decision-making responsibilities
- Healthcare and power-of-attorney wishes

For many families, legacy planning creates clarity, continuity, and confidence well before a transition occurs.



THE VALUE OF COORDINATED PLANNING

Investment decisions can affect taxes.

Tax decisions can impact retirement income. Estate plans can influence family transitions and long-term wealth preservation.

Yet many households receive financial, tax, and legal guidance separately, leaving gaps between strategies that may unintentionally create inefficiencies or missed opportunities.

Coordinated planning helps connect:

- Investment strategy
- Retirement income planning
- Tax efficiency
- Estate and trust structures
- Charitable planning
- Business succession considerations
- Long-term family goals

The result is often greater alignment, improved clarity, and more informed decision-making over time.

Final Thoughts

Retirement planning becomes more important as life becomes more complex.

Today's financial decisions rarely affect just one area of life. An investment strategy can influence taxes. Taxes can impact retirement income. Estate plans can shape how wealth transfers to future generations. Without coordination, even strong individual strategies may leave gaps or missed opportunities.

That's why comprehensive financial planning matters.

The most effective retirement strategies often bring together investment management, retirement income planning, tax-aware decision-making, estate considerations, and long-term legacy goals into one coordinated approach designed to support the bigger picture.

The goal is not simply reaching retirement. It's creating greater clarity, confidence, and alignment for the future ahead.



BUILD A MORE CONFIDENT RETIREMENT

Schedule a confidential conversation with **Bradford Financial Center** to discuss:

- Retirement income planning
- Tax-aware investment strategies
- Estate and legacy considerations
- Wealth preservation strategies
- Coordinated long-term financial planning

Whether you are preparing for retirement, navigating major financial decisions, or looking for a second opinion, Bradford Financial Center provides personalized guidance designed to help connect every part of your financial picture.



BradfordFinancialCenter.com

515-532-6661

Clarion: 119 Central Ave. W, Clarion, Iowa
Garner: 180 E. 5th Street, Garner, Iowa

*Let's build your roadmap
to a more confident future.*

Schedule a Consultation

Securities offered through United Planners Financial Services, Member FINRA/SIPC. Advisory Services offered through Bradford Financial Group. Bradford Financial Group and United Planners are not affiliated.

This guide is intended for educational purposes only and should not be considered tax, legal, or investment advice. Individuals should consult qualified professionals regarding their unique financial situation.