# 2026 · WHAT ISSUES SHOULD I CONSIDER IF I'M CONCERNED ABOUT OUTLIVING MY ASSETS?

fpPATHFINDER

| GENERAL ISSUES | YES | NO |
|---|---|---|
| **Do you need to review your family's history of longevity?** If so, consider how understanding patterns in your family's health history and life expectancy (e.g., shorter, average, or longer) can provide helpful context for your retirement strategy. | ☐ | ☐ |
| **Do you need to review how your living expenses might change as you get older?** If so, be mindful that while discretionary expenses may decrease, certain essential costs (e.g., healthcare, prescriptions, long-term care, etc.) often rise sharply later in retirement and may increase the risk of spending down your assets too quickly. | ☐ | ☐ |
| **Do you need to review the amount of flexibility you have to adjust spending when markets are down?** If so, consider how much you can afford to reduce discretionary spending (e.g., delay a vacation, etc.) when the market is down, as this may help your assets last longer. | ☐ | ☐ |
| **Are you unsure how the loss of a spouse could affect your income or financial stability?** If so, consider the following:<br>■ Review the payout choices ahead of time for Social Security, pensions, and annuities to see if options like joint life payments or delaying benefits could provide more lasting support.<br>■ Be mindful that filing as a single person often results in higher taxes even if the income is the same. Consider planning ahead (e.g., Roth conversions, etc.) to help create future tax-free income sources, which may reduce the overall taxes for the surviving spouse. | ☐ | ☐ |

| GUARANTEED INCOME ISSUES | YES | NO |
|---|---|---|
| **Do you need to review how delaying Social Security benefits could help you avoid outliving your assets?** If so, consider delaying benefits to provide a higher, guaranteed, inflation-adjusted income for life, with no market risk. | ☐ | ☐ |
| **Do you need to review your pension payout options and the stability of your pension provider?** If so, consider the tradeoffs between taking monthly payments or a lump sum, based on your income needs, life expectancy, and estate goals. Also, review the financial strength of the pension plan and how much of your benefit is protected by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC), especially if your benefit is above the coverage limits. | ☐ | ☐ |
| **Do you need additional guaranteed income beyond Social Security and/or a pension?** If so, consider how the guaranteed income from an annuity can reduce pressure on your portfolio (especially during market downturns). Additionally, a deferred income annuity (DIA) or qualified longevity annuity contract (QLAC) could be used to help protect against running out of money in your later years. | ☐ | ☐ |
| **Are you concerned about what will happen to your annuity or pension if you pass away earlier than expected?** If so, consider whether your contract or plan includes features like a return of premium, cash refund, or death benefit to help ensure unused funds aren't lost. Keep in mind that adding these protections typically reduces the monthly income you'll receive. | ☐ | ☐ |
| **Are you worried that your guaranteed income will not keep up with inflation?** If so, consider exploring annuity options with cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs), but be mindful that they generally come with lower starting payouts. | ☐ | ☐ |

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| PORTFOLIO & ASSET ISSUES | YES | NO |
|---|---|---|
| **Are you concerned about withdrawing too much at a time from your portfolio?** If so, consider using a flexible withdrawal strategy that can adjust based on whether the market is up or down, rather than relying on a fixed approach (e.g., the 4% rule). | ☐ | ☐ |
| **Do you need to review whether your portfolio is properly diversified to help it last your entire life?** If so, be mindful of being overly conservative or aggressive, as both options run the risk of depleting your assets too quickly. | ☐ | ☐ |
| **Do you need to review what to do during periods of market decline?** If so, be mindful of how negative market returns early in retirement (i.e., sequence of returns risk) can accelerate how quickly you deplete your assets. Consider strategies like holding a cash reserve, adjusting withdrawals, or using guaranteed income sources (e.g., annuities) to help reduce the impact. | ☐ | ☐ |
| **Do you need to review how your withdrawal strategy might affect your taxes and how long your money lasts?** If so, consider how coordinating withdrawals from taxable, tax-deferred, and tax-free accounts can help reduce your lifetime tax burden, preserve more assets for later years, and improve the sustainability of your retirement income over a longer lifespan. | ☐ | ☐ |
| **Do you need to review how your home could be used to support your long-term financial plan?** If so, consider how options like downsizing, modifying your home to age in place, or using a reverse mortgage could help free up equity, reduce future housing or care costs, and provide an income or liquidity buffer later in life. Responsibly using the equity in your home may help extend your other resources and reduce the risk of outliving your assets. | ☐ | ☐ |

| INSURANCE ISSUES | YES | NO |
|---|---|---|
| **Are you concerned that future health or long-term care (LTC) needs could become a financial burden?** If so, consider how LTC insurance can help manage future healthcare costs and protect your savings from being depleted too quickly. Additionally, consider whether a deferred income annuity (DIA) or qualified longevity annuity contract (QLAC) could further support your LTC needs by providing guaranteed income later in life, during years when greater healthcare needs are more likely to occur. | ☐ | ☐ |
| **Do you need to review how life insurance can be used to protect your surviving spouse's income needs?** If so, consider whether having life insurance in place could give you the confidence to select a single life payout (in lieu of a joint payout) for a higher guaranteed lifetime income. This strategy may help reduce the risk of outliving your assets while still protecting your spouse after your death. | ☐ | ☐ |

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