



Fee-Only Financial and Investment Planning
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On Course

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Welcome! Last fall we published a three-part series on retirement that proved to be among the most popular newsletters we've published in the last 14 years! (See below for links to the newsletters.) This month, we're showcasing three common retirement issues with tips on how to handle them.

If you would like help with your retirement planning, remember we're here to help you stay *On Course*!

-Jennifer Lane, CFP

Retirement Planning

In the fall of 2013, we published a three-part series on retirement. Here are links to these very popular newsletters:

[Retirement Savings](#)

[Social Security](#)

[Withdrawals for Retirement Cash Flow](#)

This month, we're focusing on three common retirement questions.

Transitioning to retirement spending

- No doubt about it -- it's hard to go from putting money from a paycheck into savings to withdrawing from savings for all your expenses!
- Begin by learning what you're spending now so you can develop a budget to ensure that you have a reasonable expectation that you'll be comfortable in retirement.
- Using tracking software such as [Mint.com](#) or [Quicken](#), you can quickly build up a history that will produce detailed reports on how you spend.
- When tracking -- and then planning -- keep fixed and variable expenses separate so you'll be able to adjust your budget easily when needed.
- As you get closer to retirement, you can try living on your planned budget to see how it works.

Who's in charge?

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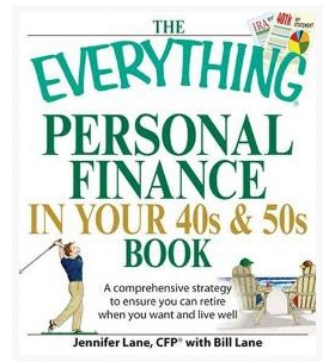


Jennifer's Hint

Don't let your feelings about the current economic or political environment color your entire retirement plan. Economics and politics work in cycles. If you are retired for 25 years, you will go through many of these cycles -- good and bad. Construct a sound plan and then stick with it.

Get more tips in Jennifer's book

- While one or both partners are working, it's typical for one person to assume responsibility for day-to-day finances. Once you retire, both of you should be involved in planning and spending. This will help you make joint decisions on both large and small outlays.
- Have a monthly money meeting (MMM) if you aren't doing this already. Always begin with a review of your joint goals, which allows you to discuss spending in the best and strongest context.
- If you have children, be sure to include them in some way so they understand what your expectations and capabilities are around helping them financially.



([click here for link](#))

Helpful Websites

[Mint.com](#)

[National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys](#)

[Quicken](#)

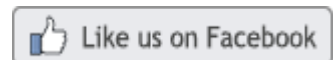
[Social Security](#)

Q&A

Q: I'm retiring at the end of the year. I'll get a pension from Massachusetts, but many of my friends say they also get money from Social Security. I'll be 65 in February. Can I draw from Social Security, too?

– **Joe, Hingham**

A: Congratulations on your retirement, Joe! What you can withdraw depends on the number of years you worked under both systems. Social Security for retirees with government pensions are reduced by the Windfall Elimination Provision or [WEP](#). Surviving spouses receiving pension benefits can be affected by the Government Pension Offset or [GPO](#). For WEP, check at this [calculator](#) and for GPO, check at this [calculator](#). You'll need your Social Security statement and pension information. Also, if you're a spouse, you might be able to draw your spouse's benefit for a time before starting your pension.



Pan Mass Challenge

Jennifer had a great, wet ride in the Pan Mass earlier this month! 100 percent of every rider-raised dollar goes to the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Her rider profile page is [here](#) if you would like to donate.



What's New

- Jennifer recently answered NECN viewer questions about credit scores. Click [here](#) to watch the segment on her blog.
- Jennifer contributed to an excellent article in *The Boston Globe*: "Post-graduation course: budgeting." Click [here](#) to read the article.
- Follow us on Facebook! Visit www.facebook.com/AskJennifer and like us!
- Jennifer appears on NECN every other Monday morning at 9:30 am in addition to her Tuesday 6:30 pm appearance.

Compass Planning Associates helps families, individuals, and small-business clients achieve financial security, knowledge, and control over their money. Our **fee-only, client-centered approach** provides education and guidance for achieving financial goals and dreams.

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