

Year-End Financial Checklist

9 Money Moves You Should Consider





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Gumption gets you far but a smartly crafted personal finance checklist and gumption? Well, that gets you even farther. We've narrowed down our best year-end personal finance advice into a pithy checklist of 9 tips to help you start the new year.

- Donate to a cause you believe in.
 - A high-income year is a great time to consider donating to a good cause. If you are not sure where you want to park your charitable contributions, a donor-advised fund, or DAF, can allow you to prepay donations into charitable savings account now and decide where it goes later.
- Check-in on your will.

Even if you haven't had major life changes this year, a peek with fresh eyes at your will and estate documents is a good habit to keep. Remember to review your beneficiaries across retirement accounts, insurance policies, and estate documents.

- Fatten up your retirement accounts.
 - Be sure to confirm your retirement contributions to assure you are able to take advantage of maximum deferrals. In a similar vein, remember to review your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) to avoid a penalty fee.
- Manage returns with tax-loss harvesting.

If you haven't had a review during the year, now is the time to consult with your financial planner on managing capital gains and lower taxes with tax-loss harvesting in your portfolio.



Audit your credit score.

Check-in on your credit score. If something seems off, be sure to analyze unusual credit card or loan activity that may have been opened under your name in error or as a result of fraud.

Analyze your credit card spending.

As the world remains contactless and cashless, it's smart to review your credit card spending summary and history to ensure accuracy. Fraudulent charges are often made in smaller amounts to remain undetected.

Avoid being underinsured.

Review insurance policies to ensure your coverage is sufficient.

Discuss timing of exit strategies or large shifts in income now.

If you are aware of upcoming life events that will significantly affect liquidity or income, i.e. purchases and sales of businesses or properties, vesting shares of ESPP or ISO's, marriage or divorce, discuss them with your financial planner, tax advisor or attorney now.

Check your health now.

Now more than ever, we realize that a clean bill of health is true wealth. We recommend checking in on your physical and mental well-being with an annual physical and time with a therapist.

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