

FOUNDATIONAL SAVINGS	YES	NO
<p>Do you need to save more in your Emergency Fund? If so, consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ If you are married and both you and your spouse are employed, you may want to set aside three months of living expenses in case of an emergency. ■ If you are single or the sole income earner, you may want to set aside six months of living expenses in case of an emergency. ■ If you are a high-income earner or entrepreneur, you may want to set aside as much as 18 months of living expenses to take advantage of job mobility and business opportunities. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Are you disappointed with the rate of return you are getting at your bank? If so, consider the benefits and risks associated with high-yield saving/checking accounts, CDs, and other conservative investments.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

HEALTHCARE SAVINGS	YES	NO
<p>Do you have a Flexible Savings Account (FSA)? If so, consider making a tax-deductible contribution of \$2,750, which can be used on medical, dental, and vision care. Be sure to spend the funds by the end of the year or you will lose any remaining funds.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Do you have a Health Savings Account (HSA)? If so, consider contributing up to \$3,550 (\$7,100 for a family) and an additional \$1,000 if you are age 55 or over. The HSA is the most tax-preferred vehicle available. See "Can I Make A Deductible Contribution To My HSA?" flowchart for details.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

RETIREMENT SAVINGS	YES	NO
<p>Do you have a retirement plan offered through your employer? If so, consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Make sure you get any match offered by the employer. ■ You can contribute up to \$19,500 annually (\$26,000 if age 50 or over). ■ If you have made the maximum salary deferral contribution and want to contribute more, consider if a Mega Backdoor Roth Contribution is applicable. Reference "Can I Make A Mega Backdoor Roth IRA Contribution?" flowchart. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Do you expect your income to increase in the future? If so, consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Contribute to a Roth 401(k) and pay taxes now at the lower rates. ■ Contribute up to \$6,000 (\$7,000 if age 50 or over) to a Roth IRA. Eligibility is phased out between \$124,000-\$139,000 MAGI (single) and \$196,000-\$206,000 MAGI (MFJ). See "Can I Contribute To My Roth IRA?" flowchart. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Is your MAGI greater than \$139,000 (\$206,000 if MFJ) and you have maxed out your 401(k) salary deferrals but want to save more? If so, consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A Backdoor Roth IRA contribution could allow you to save an extra \$6,000 (\$7,000 if age 50 or over). Reference "Can I Make a Backdoor Roth IRA Contribution?" flowchart. ■ If your employer's plan allows after-tax contributions, you may be able to make a Mega Backdoor Roth IRA contribution. See "Can I Make A Mega Backdoor Roth IRA Contribution?" flowchart. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

EMPLOYER-PROVIDED BENEFITS & BUSINESS OWNER SAVINGS	YES	NO
<p>Does your employer offer an ESPP? If so, consider participating and review your selling strategy in advance.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Are you a business owner? If so, consider the following: (continue on next page)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

EMPLOYER-PROVIDED BENEFITS & BUSINESS OWNER SAVINGS	YES	NO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can contribute up to \$57,000 (\$63,500 if age 50 or over) in a 401(k), including your employer and employee contributions. See "Should I Set Up A Traditional 401(k) For My Business?" flowchart. You can save more than the 401(k) amounts by opening and contributing to a Pension Plan. Contribution amounts will vary depending on several factors, such as the ages of the employees. <p>Are you a business owner and do you have minor children? If so, consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider offering your children paid positions within the business to allow them to save in their name (and to be taxed at their income bracket). A Roth IRA may be an appealing account to fund. Single Owner LLCs, Sole Proprietorships and Partnerships where the only owners are the parents don't have to pay FICA taxes on the earnings of a minor child. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

ACCOUNTS TO HELP FUTURE GENERATIONS	YES	NO
<p>Are you or your dependents planning to attend college? If so, consider using a 529 plan to save for college:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can use your annual exclusion amount to contribute up to \$15,000 per year to a beneficiary's 529 account, gift tax-free. Alternatively, you can make a lump sum contribution of up to \$75,000 to a beneficiary's 529 account, and elect to treat it as if it were made evenly over a 5-year period, gift tax-free. You may be eligible for a state income tax deduction or credit if you contribute to a plan sponsored by your state. <p>Are you interested in funding future generations? If so, consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UTMA/UGMA accounts could be used to save on behalf of minor children (or grandchildren). Be mindful of Kiddie Tax Rules. Dynasty trusts could be used to provide funds for many future generations. Each state has specific rules regarding the vesting of interests and maximum duration of trusts. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

TAX-DEFERRED INSURANCE OPTIONS	YES	NO
<p>Do you have (or would you consider) an annuity? If so, consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you have maxed out your savings in tax-deferred accounts, this option may be attractive as it provides tax deferral on the gains. Depending on the contract, some annuities offer very few guarantees resulting in low-cost options. <p>Do you need to increase your life insurance coverage? If so, consider the benefits of buying a cash value life insurance policy, which can provide both life insurance and tax deferral on the gains.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

OTHER ACCOUNTS	YES	NO
<p>Are you looking to invest in the markets and are not overly concerned about saving (or able to save) in tax-deferred accounts? If so, consider a taxable brokerage account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long-term gains are taxed at preferential rates upon the sale (no tax at distribution from the account). Qualified dividends are also taxed at preferential rates. Some investments (tax-managed funds, zero-dividend stock funds, municipal bond funds, ETFs) can further mitigate any tax liability. <p>Are you charitably inclined? If so, consider utilizing a Donor Advised Fund.</p> <p>Do you have any debts (especially credit card debt)? If so, consider paying down high-interest debt instead of saving more.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

ABOUT US:



Cove Financial Planning is a fiduciary, fee-only Registered Investment Advisor that provides comprehensive financial planning and investment management services with a focus on Socially Responsible Investing (SRI). Cove primarily works with clients virtually across the country. Their mission is to help individuals and families align their financial plan and investments with their future goals as well as their core values.

Cove has been featured in national publications including The New York Times, USA Today, CNBC, Business Insider, Investment News, Financial Planning Magazine, Investor's Business Daily, MarketWatch, NerdWallet and Bustle.

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