

## YEAR-END “MONEY-DO” LIST



# DEADLINE

What should be on your year-end “money-do” list? Anything financially related that has a deadline between now and December 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **Health Insurance Open Enrollment - November 1<sup>st</sup> to December 15<sup>th</sup>**

Get a health insurance checkup, to make sure your plan still fits your needs. Do you need more options, a lower premium or higher deductible? Shop around and get the best deal!

### **Contribute to Your HSA (Health Savings Account)**

2018 Contribution limits: \$3450 for individuals, \$6900 for families

Requires a high deductible health plan

Contributions are tax-deductible going in, and coming out, as long as you use the money for qualified medical purposes.

Money rolls over indefinitely, even if you no longer have an HDHP.

Portable – Take it with you, even when you change jobs.

Investment options – earnings are tax free, as long as it’s spent on qualified medical expenses.

Use money for any purpose after 65, and pay only taxes owed.

## **Spend Down Your FSA (Flexible Spending Account)**

Unlike the HSA, your FSA funds won't roll over. Exception: some plans provide a rollover option of up to \$500 to next year's balance, or a grace period of a couple of months. Plans vary, check yours carefully.

### **Ways to spend down:**

Scheduling doctor or dentist appointments by year end.

Get new glasses, or an eye exam, if you need them.

Visit FSASore.com. Everything on their site is FSA eligible!

### **How it works:**

The amount of money you designate for the year appears in your account on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Payments come out of your check, pre-tax, all year long to pay for the lump sum.

### **Watch out!**

If you have the option for both the HSA and FSA, be careful how you use them! There are limitations to using them together.

## **Savers Credit**

Tax credit on the first \$2,000 of 401K or IRA contributions

Singles with under \$31,000 AGI, or married couples with under \$62,000 combined AGI are eligible

(In addition to all your 401K and IRA contributions being tax-deductible)

## **RMD's (Required Minimum Distributions)**

At 70 ½, you must take annual required minimum distributions from 401K's and IRA's. Failure to do so will result in a 50% tax penalty.

## Tax Consultation

Consider a consultation with a tax professional to make sure you're taking advantage of all tax breaks, before the end of the year.

## Insurance Checkups

Car, homeowners, renters' life, etc. – Have things changed that require more or less coverage? Are your beneficiaries still up to date? Do you need any additional types of insurance?

Make sure you're getting the best bang for your buck!

## Create a Spending Plan For Your Bonus!

Make a prioritized “wish list” of all the things you'd like to spend your bonus on.

Guesstimate the amount of your bonus (based on years past).

Earmark a certain dollar amount to each item until you reach zero.



## Goal Setting For The New Year

Make a list of all your financial goals

Prioritize in order of importance

Create a spending plan (read articles “Budgeting Made Easy” and “Expanding Your Budget” for help)

Consider [YNAB](#) as your budgeting tool!

