

"Your Green"

WITH ROGER S. GREEN, MSFS, CFP®

Harvesting Retirement Assets

Retirement planning does not end at retirement. **The need to continue to grow assets remains important for most. With people now living 10-40 years in retirement, many will have trouble making their assets last throughout retirement, especially with the impact of inflation and taxation that decrease the value of your money over time.**

For more than 30 years I have helped thousands of people with their money through the good times and the challenging, and I understand what it takes to plan successfully for retirement. **The following is an overview of my plan for harvesting of retirement assets; a plan I have seen work effectively for my clients regardless of their income or assets.** This plan divides your savings and investment money into three parts.

To start, determine how much money is needed annually from your savings and investments to augment your Social Security and other income sources. Once you determine that annual figure, determine how much money is needed:

- 1-2 years out
- 3-5 years out
- 5+ years out.

Whatever you need to supplement your Social Security and other income sources during

approximately your next two years of retirement, at any given time, should be kept in cash reserves or conservative, readily accessible investments; such as savings accounts, Treasuries, Money Market accounts, and other types of liquid low-volatility investments.

The next three to five years of money needed from your assets I recommend be kept in fixed income or moderate volatility investments. These include things like CDs, government or corporate bonds, credit risk investments, and other more conservative or moderate volatility liquid investments. With fixed income assets, remember to stagger maturity dates and to diversify your holdings within this category. For example, don't buy a 10-year bond if you will need to spend it in 3-5 years.

For growth in your assets, history says investments in equities/stock investments are one of your best bets*. **For your money not needed 5+ years out, I generally recommend a well-diversified portfolio of primarily equity/stock market investments, to try to achieve growth. The goal is to help stretch your assets over your life.**

This is where you really need the help of a professional, as this is your longer-term investment money with which you will take on significant risk and potential volatility to try to grow your money for your longer term harvest. Your goal is to harvest (withdraw) from a well-diversified portfolio of assets only when they are up in value; using the shorter term liquid assets as a buffer during times of market volatility, when the time isn't right to sell your equities because they may be down due to normal

market fluctuation.

I generally recommend each year of "need from assets" money be taken from the part of your portfolio that did the best compared to its history. This allows you to "harvest" from the portion of your portfolio doing the best at the time of need. Remember, with investments you always want to try to **"buy low, sell high"**.

Because of the potential significantly large fluctuations of the stock markets, I believe it is prudent to only have your longer-term dollars invested in equities, and to have a "bear market emergency reserve" to buy yourself out of periods of market downturn.

Finally, to keep this plan rolling forward, once each year, "fill-up" spent cash reserves from your investments and other assets to maintain accessible cash for living expenses. In the event of multiple down-market years, you would draw that year's harvest from your cash reserves or fixed income assets.

This is a very simplified overview of my asset harvesting. To learn more or simply get a 2nd opinion on your retirement plan, call Green Financial at 770.931.1414 or visit www.rogersgreen.com about scheduling a no-cost, no-obligation telephone or Zoom consultation.

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