



A financial advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC

Retirement Planning in 2026: Looking Beyond Higher Contribution Limits

In 2026, higher retirement contribution limits are creating new opportunities for long-term savings—including increases to \$24,500 for 401(k)s and \$7,500 for IRAs.¹ For many investors, that raises an important question: how can you make the most of these expanded limits?

While maximizing contributions is an important step, it's only part of the equation. Today's environment calls for a broader, more strategic approach—one that looks beyond annual limits and considers how your savings, investments, taxes and long-term goals work together. The following tips can help you design a retirement plan that aligns with your goals, priorities and visions for the future:

Make the most of savings opportunities. Increased contribution limits can provide a meaningful boost to your long-term retirement outlook, particularly if you're in your peak earning years or taking advantage of catch-up provisions. Consistent contributions, combined with periodic increases, when possible, can strengthen your overall trajectory. At the same time, it's important that your contributions align with your time horizon, risk tolerance and broader goals. Saving more is powerful, but only when it's part of a well-coordinated plan.

Navigate new distribution and tax considerations. Recent regulatory changes are reshaping how retirement assets are managed, particularly when it comes to inherited accounts. Updated distribution timelines for inherited IRAs can affect how assets are transferred and the tax implications for your beneficiaries. In addition, shifting state tax policies may influence decisions about where you choose to live or retire. Understanding how these factors intersect with your financial plan can help you make more informed, tax-efficient decisions over time.

Plan for rising healthcare and long-term care costs. Healthcare remains one of the most significant and unpredictable expenses in retirement. As costs continue to rise, building realistic assumptions into your plan is essential. This may involve evaluating long-term care options, setting aside dedicated savings or discussing potential family support. Addressing these considerations early can help reduce uncertainty and protect your lifestyle throughout retirement.

Align your plan with evolving lifestyle goals. Retirement is an opportunity to design a lifestyle on your own terms. You may choose to phase into retirement, pursue a second career or prioritize travel and personal interests. These choices can have a meaningful impact on your income needs, spending patterns and investment strategy. By clearly defining what retirement looks like for you, you can build a financial plan that supports not just how long you live, but how you want to live.

Take a more holistic approach. Ultimately, successful retirement planning in 2026 requires more than focusing on a single lever. Higher contribution limits are valuable, but they are one part of a larger strategy. By integrating savings, tax planning, healthcare considerations and lifestyle goals,

you can create a plan that is more resilient and adaptable.

In a landscape defined by change, having a thoughtful, comprehensive strategy can help you move forward with clarity and confidence, so your retirement plan continues to support you, no matter what lies ahead.

###

1 – IRS.gov, “401(k) limit increases to \$24,500 for 2026, IRA limit increases to \$7,500”;
<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/401k-limit-increases-to-24500-for-2026-ira-limit-increases-to-7500>

Investment products are not insured by the FDIC, NCUA or any federal agency, are not deposits or obligations of, or guaranteed by any financial institution and involve investment risks including possible loss of principal and fluctuation in value.

Ameriprise Financial Services has a partnership with this financial institution to provide financial planning services and solutions to clients. The financial institution is not an investment client of Ameriprise but has a revenue sharing relationship with us that creates a conflict of interest. Details on how we work together can be found on ameriprise.com/sec-disclosure.

This information is being provided only as a general source of information and is not a solicitation to buy or sell any securities, accounts or strategies mentioned. The information is not intended to be used as the sole basis for investment decisions, nor should it be construed as a recommendation or advice designed to meet the particular needs of an individual investor. Please seek the advice of a financial advisor regarding your particular financial situation.

Ameriprise Financial cannot guarantee future financial results.

Ameriprise Financial, Inc. and its affiliates do not offer tax or legal advice. Consumers should consult with their tax advisor or attorney regarding their specific situation.

The financial institution and Ameriprise Financial, Inc. are not affiliated.

Investment advisory products and services are made available through Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC, a registered investment adviser.

Securities offered by Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC. Member FINRA and SIPC.

© 2026 Ameriprise Financial, Inc. All rights reserved.