# Tax Education: Pre-tax vs. Roth Explained

Presented by: Max Rosenthal, CFP®





## Disclaimer

I am not a CPA or a tax advisor. Please consult your own tax advisor when considering the following material.

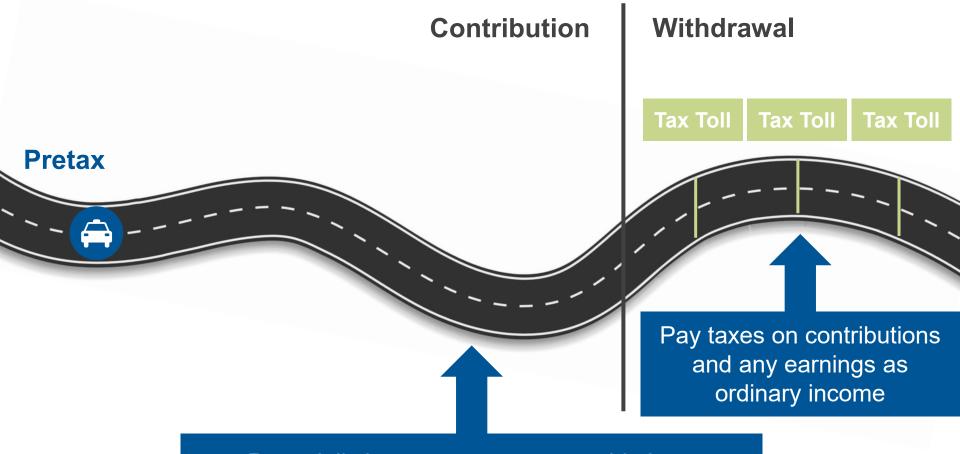
Everyone's situation is unique and nuanced. What may be applicable to some is not applicable to others.



# **Pre-tax vs Roth Explained**

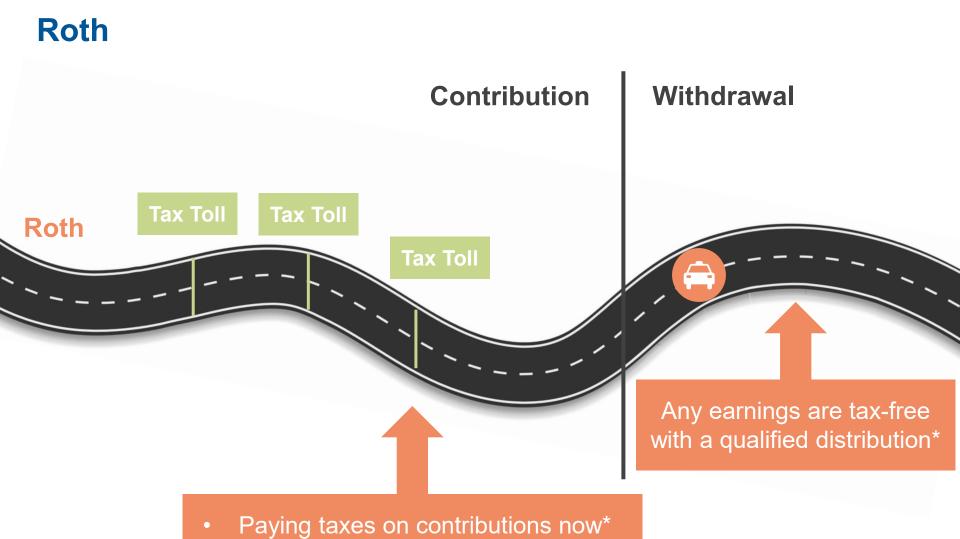


## **Pre-tax (aka Traditional)**



- Potentially lower your current taxable income
- May mean more money in your pocket today
- Any earnings grow tax deferred





• Any earnings grow tax deferred



### **Pre-tax vs Roth 401k**

	<b>Traditional Pre-tax</b>	<u>Roth</u>						
Contributions	Pre-tax	After-tax						
Distributions	Taxed upon withdrawal	"Qualified" = Tax free						
Investment Earnings	Tax deferred	Tax free						
Income Limits	N/A							
Contribution Limits	\$23,500 Age 50+: \$31,000 Age 60 – 63: \$34,750							

1 A participant must satisfy the 5-year holding period and either attain age 59½, die or become disabled in order to be eligible to receive a tax-free, qualified Roth distribution. 2 Ordinary income taxes due upon withdrawal. Withdrawals before the age of 59½ may be subject to an early distribution penalty of 10%.



### **Pre-tax vs Roth IRA**

	<b>Traditional Pre-tax</b>	Roth						
Contributions	Pre-tax	After-tax						
Distributions	Taxed upon withdrawal	"Qualified" = Tax free						
Investment Earnings	Tax deferred	Tax free						
Income Limits	<u>Participant in Employer Plan:</u> \$123 - \$143k (MFJ) \$77k - \$87k (Single) <u>Nonparticipant married to participant:</u> \$230k – \$240k	<u>Participant in Employer Plan:</u> \$230k – 240k(MFJ) \$146k - \$161k (Single)						
Contribution Limits	\$7,0 Age 50+:							

1 An individual must satisfy the 5-year holding period and either attain age 59½, die or become disabled in order to be eligible to receive a tax-free, qualified Roth distribution. 2 Ordinary income taxes due upon withdrawal. Withdrawals before the age of 59½ may be subject to an early distribution penalty of 10%.



# Understanding US Tax Code



## **US Tax Code**

Generating income will likely result in a tax return for the following entities:



- Each person is responsible for filing their own tax return
- Understanding the system gives you potential to reduce your tax bill



## **Calculating Taxable Income**

- 1) Add up all sources of income: wages, salary, tips, interest from investments, etc.
- 2) Subtract "above the line" adjustments such as traditional 401k or IRA contributions, student loan interest, etc.
- 3) Subtract itemized or standard deduction
  - 2025 standard deduction: MFJ is \$30,000, Single is \$15,000
  - Itemized deductions may include:
    - Mortgage interest
    - State and local taxes
    - Charitable donations
    - Educational expenses
    - Medical expenses

Once taxable income is calculated and the proper tax bracket percentage is applied, you may apply tax credits to lower your net tax bill.



## **2024 Federal Income Tax Brackets- Single Filers**

Tax Rate	Taxable Income Bracket	Tax Owed
10%	\$0 to \$11,925	10% of taxable income
12%	\$11,925 to \$48,475	\$1,192.50 plus 12% of the amount over \$11,925
22%	\$48,475 to \$103,350	\$5,578.50 plus 22% of the amount over \$48,475
24%	\$103,350 to 197,300	\$17,651 plus 24% of the amount over \$103,350
32%	\$197,300 to 250,525	\$40,199 plus 32% of the amount over \$197,300
35%	\$250,525 to \$626,350	\$57,231 plus 35% of the amount over \$250,525
37%	\$626,350 or more	\$188,769.75 plus 37% of the amount over \$626,350



## **2024 Federal Income Tax Brackets- Married Filling Joint**

Tax Rate	Taxable Income Bracket	Taxes Owed
10%	\$0 to \$23,850	10% of taxable income
12%	\$23,850 to \$96,950	\$2,385 plus 12% of the amount over \$23,850
22%	\$96,950 to \$206,700	\$11,157 plus 22% of the amount over \$96,950
24%	\$206,700 to \$394,600	\$35,302 plus 24% of the amount over \$206,700
32%	\$394,600 to \$501,050	\$80,398 plus 32% of the amount over \$394,600
35%	\$501,050 to \$751,600	\$114,462 plus 35% of the amount over \$501,050
37%	\$751,600 or more	\$202,154.50 plus 37% of the amount over \$751,600



## **Example for a Married Couple Filing Jointly**



### Income:

Salary - \$150,000



Adjustments: Traditional 401k contribution - \$10,000



**Standard Deduction:** \$30,000



Number of Children: 2

### Sample Federal Tax Calculation





# **Apples to Apples Comparison**



## **Impact to Take Home Pay**

	Pre-tax
Salary	\$ 100,000
Your Contribution	\$ 10,000
Taxable Income	\$ 90,000
Taxes Due (20% rate)	\$ 18,000
Take Home Pay	\$ 72,000



## **Apples to Apples Comparison**

Tax Rate	20%
Annual Rate of Return	10%
Annual Contribution	\$10,000

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Tax Bill	Net Amount

Roth	\$ 10,000	\$ 21,000	\$ 33,100	\$ 46,410	\$ 61,051	\$ 0	\$ 61,051
Total Tax Paid	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000		
Total							\$ 61,051



# Strategies





You are allowed to convert pre-tax monies into Roth monies

Most IRA custodians allow this, few 401k plans allow this

\*The amount converted will count towards taxable income



## **Back Door Roth IRA Contributions**

Open a Traditional IRA

Ensure there is a zero balance

Fund the traditional IRA but do not take the tax deduction

Convert the amount into your Roth IRA

\*If your Traditional IRA or any Traditional IRA that you own has a balance greater than \$0, it may cause some of your money to get taxed twice



## Mega Back Door Roth IRA Contributions

Do the Back Door Contribution into your IRA:

- \$7,000 under the age of 50
- \$8,000 if 50 or older

Contribute the full 401k amount into Roth

- \$23,500 under the age of 50
- \$31,000 age 50 or older
- \$34,750 ages 60-63



## Mega Back Door Roth IRA Contributions

Fund the after-tax portion (if plan allows) up to limit and do an in-plan conversion to Roth

- \$70,000 total under the age of 50
- \$77,500 total age 50 or older
- \$81,750 total ages 60-63
- Assuming no employer match, this results in \$46,500 available

Total contribution to Roth:

- \$77,000 under the age of 50
- \$85,500 age 50 or older
- \$89,750 ages 60-63



## 10% to 12% bracket

Roth 401k or Roth IRA contributions

Consider Roth conversions\*

\*Roth conversions can potentially cause Medicare premiums to increase if over the age of 65.



## 22% or 24% Bracket

Roth and/or Pre-tax 401k contributions

Roth IRA or back door Roth IRA contributions

Roth conversions (potentially)\*

\* Roth conversions can potentially cause Medicare premiums to increase if over the age of 65.



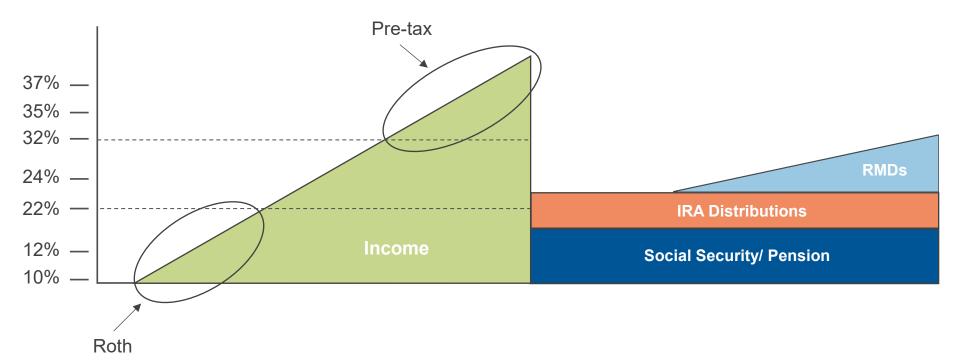
## 32% bracket or higher

Pre-tax 401k contributions

Back-door Roth contributions



## **Hypothetical Example**





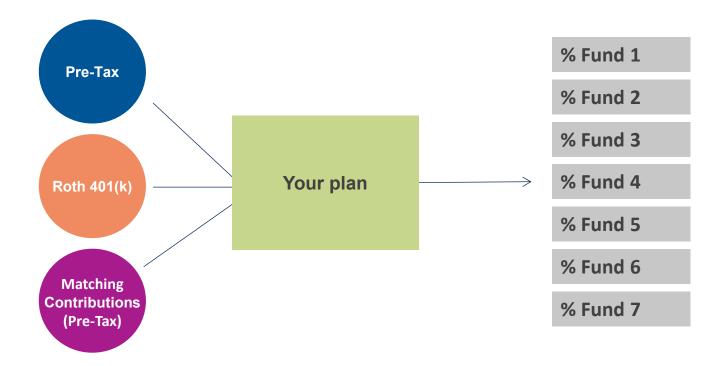
# **Miscellaneous Items**



## **Investments in 401k Plans**

**All sources** of money are invested based on investment elections you have on file.

Some plans may allow you to separate how each source is invested





## **Roth IRA: The 5-year Rule**

For Roth monies to be distributed tax free, the account (whether 401k or IRA) must satisfy a 5-year holding period

For this reason, individuals saving in a 401k plan may consider opening a Roth IRA as well

An individual must also attain age 59.5, die, or become disabled



## **Other Tax Savings Strategies**

HSA contributions

Cash Balance Plan

Tax-efficient non-qualified investments

ETFs

Municipal bond funds

Tax-loss harvesting

529 college plans

Tax credits





## **CONTACT US**

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