



The Davis Group

Trusted Advisors for Delta Pilots since 1987

Referral Letter

We appreciate the chance to serve you here at The Davis Group.

We are working to expand The Davis Group financial and retirement planning services in an effort to reach as many Delta Pilots as we can. We thought you might be able to help.

If possible, could you take a minute and list any Delta Pilots you know could benefit from a complimentary comprehensive wealth management plan. Or, if you are part of or aware of any Delta Pilot groups or associations we should be aware of, please let us know.

You can do so by contacting Ray at:
ray.davis@raymondjames.com .

Best Regards,
Mark Davis

The Davis Group

The Davis Group

Mark Ray Davis, CFP® Senior Advisor
Ray Davis, Financial Advisor
Myra Keith-Johnson, ChFC®
2795 E. Cottonwood Pkw Ste 600
Salt Lake City, UT 84121
801-365-0100
800-548-2205
thedavisgroup@RaymondJames.com

THREE WAYS THE DAVIS GROUP STRIVES TO EARN AND KEEP YOUR TRUST

Expertise and attention to details

Serving Delta Pilots since 1987, the advisors at The Davis Group understand thoroughly Delta Benefit Plans. Because they have focused on the Delta Pilot's objective to maximize retirement benefits, you can trust they will help you reach your individual objectives.

Raymond James

LIFE WELL PLANNED. That is the Raymond James philosophy. They seek to put you first – just as The Davis Group does. The relationships the advisors at The Davis Group has established with their Delta Pilot clients is only strengthened by the resources of Raymond James has.

Complimentary Comprehensive Wealth Management Plan

Let The Davis Group demonstrate their expertise and start earning your trust with a complimentary Comprehensive Wealth Management Plan.

January 2018

Key Retirement and Tax Numbers for 2018

Don't Delay: The Potential Benefits of Starting to Save Now

What can I do to crack down on robocalls?

How can I protect myself from digital deception?

Key Retirement and Tax Numbers for 2018



Proposed tax reform legislation may make changes to the estate and gift tax, the personal exemption, the standard deduction, and the alternative minimum tax.

Every year, the Internal Revenue Service announces cost-of-living adjustments that affect contribution limits for retirement plans, thresholds for deductions and credits, and standard deduction and personal exemption amounts. Here are a few of the key adjustments for 2018.

Employer retirement plans

- Employees who participate in 401(k), 403(b), and most 457 plans can defer up to \$18,500 in compensation in 2018 (up from \$18,000 in 2017); employees age 50 and older can defer up to an additional \$6,000 in 2018 (the same as in 2017).
- Employees participating in a SIMPLE retirement plan can defer up to \$12,500 in 2018 (the same as in 2017), and employees age 50 and older can defer up to an additional \$3,000 in 2018 (the same as in 2017).

IRAs

The limit on annual contributions to an IRA remains unchanged at \$5,500 in 2018, with individuals age 50 and older able to contribute an additional \$1,000. For individuals who are covered by a workplace retirement plan, the deduction for contributions to a traditional IRA is phased out for the following modified adjusted gross income (AGI) ranges:

	2017	2018
Single/head of household (HOH)	\$62,000 - \$72,000	\$63,000 - \$73,000
Married filing jointly (MFJ)	\$99,000 - \$119,000	\$101,000 - \$121,000
Married filing separately (MFS)	\$0 - \$10,000	\$0 - \$10,000

Note: The 2018 phaseout range is \$189,000 - \$199,000 (up from \$186,000 - \$196,000 in 2017) when the individual making the IRA contribution is not covered by a workplace retirement plan but is filing jointly with a spouse who is covered.

The modified AGI phaseout ranges for individuals to make contributions to a Roth IRA are:

	2017	2018
Single/HOH	\$118,000 - \$133,000	\$120,000 - \$135,000
MFJ	\$186,000 - \$196,000	\$189,000 - \$199,000
MFS	\$0 - \$10,000	\$0 - \$10,000

Estate and gift tax

- The annual gift tax exclusion for 2018 is \$15,000, up from \$14,000 in 2017.
- The gift and estate tax basic exclusion amount for 2018 is \$5,600,000, up from \$5,490,000 in 2017.

Personal exemption

The personal exemption amount for 2018 is \$4,150, up from \$4,050 in 2017. For 2018, personal exemptions begin to phase out once AGI exceeds \$266,700 (single), \$293,350 (HOH), \$320,000 (MFJ), or \$160,000 (MFS).

Note: These same AGI thresholds apply in determining if itemized deductions may be limited. The corresponding 2017 threshold amounts were \$261,500 (single), \$287,650 (HOH), \$313,800 (MFJ), or \$156,900 (MFS).

Standard deduction

These amounts have been adjusted as follows:

	2017	2018
Single	\$6,350	\$6,500
HOH	\$9,350	\$9,550
MFJ	\$12,700	\$13,000
MFS	\$6,350	\$6,500

Note: The 2018 additional standard deduction amount (age 65 or older, or blind) is \$1,600 (up from \$1,550 in 2017) for single/HOH or \$1,300 (up from \$1,250 in 2017) for all other filing statuses. Special rules apply if you can be claimed as a dependent by another taxpayer.

Alternative minimum tax (AMT)

	2017	2018
Maximum AMT exemption amount		
Single/HOH	\$54,300	\$55,400
MFJ	\$84,500	\$86,200
MFS	\$42,250	\$43,100
Exemption phaseout threshold		
Single/HOH	\$120,700	\$123,100
MFJ	\$160,900	\$164,100
MFS	\$80,450	\$82,050
26% on AMTI* up to this amount, 28% on AMTI above this amount		
MFS	\$93,900	\$95,750
All others	\$187,800	\$191,500

*Alternative minimum taxable income

Don't Delay: The Potential Benefits of Starting to Save Now



For long-term investment goals such as retirement, time can be one of your biggest advantages. That's because time allows your investment dollars to do some of the hard work for you through a mathematical principle known as compounding.

The snowball effect

The premise behind compounding is fairly simple. You invest to earn money, and if those returns are then reinvested, that money can also earn returns.

For example, say you invest \$1,000 and earn an annual return of 7% — which, of course, cannot be guaranteed. In year one, you'd earn \$70 and your account would be worth \$1,070. In year two, that \$1,070 would earn \$74.90, which would bring the total value of your account to \$1,144.90. In year three, your account would earn \$80.14, bringing the total to \$1,225.04 — and so on. Over time, if your account continues to grow in this manner, the process can begin to snowball and potentially add up.

Time and money

Now consider how compounding works over long time periods using dollar-cost averaging (investing equal amounts at regular intervals), a strategy many people use to save for retirement.¹ Let's say you contribute \$120 every two weeks. Assuming you earn a 7% rate of return each year, your results would look like this:

Time period	Amount invested	Total accumulated
10 years	\$31,200	\$45,100
20 years	\$62,400	\$135,835
30 years	\$93,600	\$318,381

After 10 years, your investment would have earned almost \$14,000; after 20 years, your money would have more than doubled; and after 30 years, your account would be worth more than three times what you invested.² That's the power of compounding at work. The longer you invest and allow the money to grow, the more powerful compounding can become.

The cost of waiting

Now consider how much it might cost you to *delay* your investing plan. Let's say you set a goal of accumulating \$500,000 before you retire. The following scenarios examine how much you would have to invest on a monthly basis, assuming you start with no money and earn a 7% annual rate of return (compounded monthly).

Time frame to retirement	40 years	35 years	30 years	25 years
Retirement accumulation goal	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
Annual rate of return	7%	7%	7%	7%
Monthly contribution needed	\$190	\$278	\$410	\$617

So the less time you have to pursue your goal, the more you will likely have to invest out of pocket. The moral of the story? Don't put off saving for the future. Give your investment dollars as much time as possible to do the hard work for you.

¹ Dollar-cost averaging does not ensure a profit or prevent a loss. It involves continuous investments in securities regardless of fluctuating prices. You should consider your financial ability to continue making purchases during periods of low and high price levels. All investing involves risk, including the possible loss of principal, and there is no guarantee that any investment strategy will be successful. Review your progress periodically and be prepared to make adjustments when necessary.

² Assumes 26 contributions per year, compounded bi-weekly.

These hypothetical examples are used for illustrative purposes only and do not represent the performance of any specific investment. Fees and expenses are not considered and would reduce the performance shown if they were included. Actual results will vary. Rates of return will vary over time, particularly for long-term investments. Investments with the potential for higher rates of return also carry a greater degree of risk of loss.

The Davis Group

Mark Ray Davis, CFP® Senior Advisor
Ray Davis, Financial Advisor
Myra Keith-Johnson, ChFC®
2795 E. Cottonwood Pkw Ste 600
Salt Lake City, UT 84121
801-365-0100
800-548-2205
thedavisgroup@RaymondJames.com

This information, developed by an independent third party, has been obtained from sources considered to be reliable, but Raymond James Financial Services, Inc. does not guarantee that the foregoing material is accurate or complete. This information is not a complete summary or statement of all available data necessary for making an investment decision and does not constitute a recommendation. The information contained in this report does not purport to be a complete description of the securities, markets, or developments referred to in this material. This information is not intended as a solicitation or an offer to buy or sell any security referred to herein. Investments mentioned may not be suitable for all investors. The material is general in nature. Past performance may not be indicative of future results. Raymond James Financial Services, Inc. does not provide advice on tax, legal or mortgage issues. These matters should be discussed with the appropriate professional.

The Davis Group is not a registered broker/dealer and is independent of Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., member FINRA / SIPC.

Securities offered through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., member FINRA/SIPC, an independent broker/dealer, and are not insured by FDIC, NCUA or any other government agency, are not deposits or obligations of the financial institution, are not guaranteed by the financial institution, and are subject to risks, including the possible loss of principal.



What can I do to crack down on robocalls?

You may not mind if a legitimate robocall provides a helpful announcement from your child's school or an appointment reminder from a doctor's office. But sadly, criminals often use robocalls to collect consumers' personal information and/or conduct various scams. Newer "spoofing" technology displays fake numbers to make it look as though calls are local, rather than coming from overseas, which could trick more people into answering the phone.

Robocalls have been illegal since 2009 (unless the telemarketer has the consumer's prior consent). In mid-2017, federal agencies announced they are ramping up enforcement by fining violators and encouraging blocking technologies. What should you do if you want to help put an end to this nuisance?

1. Don't answer calls when you don't recognize the phone number. If you pick up an unwanted robocall, just hang up. Don't answer "yes" or "no" questions, provide personal information, or press a number to

"opt out." Responding to the call in any way verifies that it has reached a real number and could prompt additional calls.

2. Look into robocall blocking solutions that may be offered by your phone service provider. If they're available, you may need to follow specific instructions to "opt in." Otherwise, consider a mobile app or cloud-based service designed to block robocalls; some of them are free or cost just a few dollars.
3. Consider registering your phone number on the National Do Not Call Registry. While taking this step can help mitigate the amount of robocalls you receive, it's only a partial solution to the problem. The Federal Trade Commission advises consumers whose numbers are on the registry but still receive unwanted calls to report robocall violations at [complaints.donotcall.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/complaints-donotcall.gov). The phone numbers provided by consumers will be released each day to companies that are working on call-blocking technologies, which largely depend on "blacklists" with numbers associated with multiple complaints.



How can I protect myself from digital deception?

Imagine that you receive an email with an urgent message asking you to verify your banking information by clicking on a link. Or maybe you get an enticing text message claiming that you've won a free vacation to the destination of your choice — all you have to do is click on the link you were sent. In both scenarios, clicking on the link causes you to play right into the hands of a cybercriminal seeking your sensitive information. Just like that, you're at risk for identity theft because you were tricked by a social engineering scam.

Social engineering attacks are a form of digital deception in which cybercriminals psychologically manipulate victims into divulging sensitive information. Cybercriminals "engineer" believable scenarios designed to evoke an emotional response (curiosity, fear, empathy, or excitement) from their targets. As a result, people often react without thinking first due to curiosity or concern over the message that was sent. Since social engineering attacks appear in many forms and appeal to a variety of emotions, they can be especially difficult to identify.

Take steps to protect yourself from a social engineering scam. If you receive a message conveying a sense of urgency, slow down and read it carefully before reacting. Don't click on suspicious or unfamiliar links in emails, text messages, and instant messaging services. Hover your cursor over a link before clicking on it to see if it will bring you to a real URL. Don't forget to check the spelling of URLs — any mistakes indicate a scam website. Also be sure to look for the secure lock symbol and the letters *https*: in the address bar of your Internet browser. These are signs that you're navigating to a legitimate website.

Never download email attachments unless you can verify that the sender is legitimate. Similarly, don't send money to charities or organizations that request help unless you can follow up directly with the charitable group.

Be wary of unsolicited messages. If you get an email or a text that asks you for financial information or passwords, do not reply — delete it. Remember that social engineering scams can also be used over the phone. Use healthy skepticism when you receive calls that demand money or request sensitive information. Always be vigilant and think before acting.