

# Key Dates Every Senior Should Know After 60

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Medicare enrollment windows, RMD deadlines, Social Security filing ages — the dates that carry real financial consequences.

## 59½

### RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS OPEN UP

- **No more early withdrawal penalty**

You can withdraw from traditional IRAs and 401(k)s without the 10% early penalty. Withdrawals are still taxable as ordinary income.

- **It's an option, not a requirement**

The penalty disappears — but the tax doesn't. Withdraw only if needed.

## 62

### EARLIEST SOCIAL SECURITY ELIGIBILITY

- **Benefits available — but reduced**

Claiming at 62 permanently reduces your monthly benefit by up to 30% compared to waiting until Full Retirement Age.

- **Earnings limit applies**

If you claim early and keep working, income above the annual exempt amount temporarily reduces your benefit.

## 65

### MEDICARE INITIAL ENROLLMENT

- **7-month enrollment window**

Begins 3 months before your 65th birthday month and ends 3 months after. Missing it without qualifying employer coverage triggers a permanent Part B penalty.

- **Also unlocks tax benefits**

The additional standard deduction kicks in and senior property tax exemptions may become available in your county.

## 66–67

### FULL SOCIAL SECURITY RETIREMENT AGE

- **Born 1943–1954: FRA is 66**

Born 1955–1959: FRA rises gradually. Born 1960 or later: FRA is 67.

- **100% of your calculated benefit**

Claiming at FRA means no reduction. After FRA, the earnings limit disappears entirely.

## 70

### SOCIAL SECURITY MAXIMUM BENEFIT

- **Benefit grows 8% per year past FRA**

Delaying past Full Retirement Age increases your benefit up to 24% (if FRA is 67). No additional growth after 70 — apply a few months early.

- **No reason to wait past 70**

The delayed credit stops accruing at age 70 regardless of when you claim.

## 73 or 75

### REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTIONS BEGIN

- **Born 1951–1959: RMDs start at 73**

Born 1960 or later: RMDs start at 75. First RMD due April 1 of the following year — but taking two in one year can push you into a higher bracket.

- **Missing an RMD triggers a penalty**

Currently 25% of the amount not taken, reduced to 10% if corrected promptly. RMDs also affect Social Security taxation and Medicare premiums (IRMAA).

## 70½

### QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS

- **Give directly from your IRA**

Transfer up to \$105,000/year (2026, adjusted annually) to eligible charities. The amount satisfies your RMD but is not counted as taxable income.

## ANNUAL DATES TO KEEP ON YOUR CALENDAR

<b>Oct 15 - Dec 7</b>	<b>Medicare Annual Enrollment Period</b> Switch plans, change Part D drug coverage, or move between Original and Advantage Medicare. Changes take effect January 1.
<b>January 1</b>	<b>New Medicare plan year begins</b> Plan changes take effect. IRMAA income lookback resets — Medicare uses your income from two years prior to set Part B and D premiums.
<b>April 15</b>	<b>Tax filing deadline + Q1 estimated tax due</b> Federal return due. First quarterly estimated tax payment also due April 15.
<b>June 15 / Sept 15 / Jan 15</b>	<b>Remaining quarterly estimated tax payments</b> Q2 due June 15, Q3 due September 15, Q4 due January 15 of the following year.
<b>December 31</b>	<b>Annual RMD deadline</b> All Required Minimum Distributions must be taken by December 31 each year (except your very first RMD, which can be delayed to April 1).

**Important:** Medicare late enrollment penalties are permanent. Social Security claiming decisions are locked in. RMD penalties accrue on a schedule. None of these require a lifetime to fix — but knowing they are coming is the entire game.