

Roth Conversion Checklist

Questions to answer before you convert | Reviewed October 2026

Step 1: The basics

- ☐ I understand the converted amount is **added to my taxable income** this year.
- ☐ I understand a conversion **cannot be undone** (recharacterized) after 2017.
- ☐ I know there is **no income limit** on who can convert.

Step 2: The pro-rata rule

All my traditional, SEP and SIMPLE IRAs count as one pot on December 31.

Total traditional, SEP and SIMPLE IRAs on Dec 31: \$ _____

Part of that I already paid tax on (basis, Form 8606): \$ _____

- ☐ I asked my tax preparer how much of a conversion would be taxable.

Step 3: Required withdrawals

- ☐ If I have a required withdrawal this year, I will take it **first**. It cannot be converted.

Step 4: The five-year clocks

- ☐ **Roth IRA clock**: starts January 1 of the first year I put money in any Roth IRA.
- ☐ **Conversion clock**: each conversion has its own, matters if I take money out before 59 1/2.

Step 5: The ripple effects

Check	Why it matters	Done
Medicare income thresholds	Income from 2 years ago sets premiums. 2026 conversion affects 2028.	[]
Tax on Social Security	More income can make more benefits taxable.	[]
Senior deduction (\$6,000, 65+, 2025 to 2028)	Starts to phase out at \$75,000 single, \$150,000 joint.	[]
Marketplace credits (before Medicare)	Income affects the credit. Ask my tax professional.	[]

Step 6: Where would it land?

Rate	Single starts at	Married filing jointly starts at
12%	\$12,400	\$24,800
22%	\$50,400	\$100,800
24%	\$105,700	\$211,400
32%	\$201,775	\$403,550

2026 standard deduction: \$16,100 single, \$32,200 married filing jointly.

Step 7: Paying the tax

- ☐ I can pay the tax from **money outside** the retirement account.
- ☐ I asked about **estimated tax payments** (90% of this year, or 100% of last year, 110% if AGI over \$150,000).

Questions for my tax professional

Sources: General education only. Figures from IRS, Social Security and Medicare sources, reviewed October 2026. Sources: IRS Form 8606 instructions, 26 CFR 1.408A-4 and -6, Rev. Proc. 2025-32, Form 1040-ES, SSA premium page.