

Spend time with your account to kick off the New Year

Three ways to save and invest your tax refund

Tips for keeping your account secure

Shook up by market volatility?

SBCDCP News

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLANS NEWSLETTER



Spend time with your account to kick off the New Year

Your Plan account offers valuable features to help you plan for your retirement and other priorities. Make a fresh start in the New Year! See where you stand and take action if you need to by logging into your account today.

Click Financial Wellness to take an assessment. When you're done, you'll see how you score on the six pillars of Financial Wellness and what you can do about it. The dashboard is personalized with guidance to help you focus on areas to improve.

Check myOrangeMoney® to see the income you'll likely need each month in retirement. You'll see the progress you've made towards the goal and determine if you need to change how you're saving or investing.

Pull together all your financial information in one place. To use your Personal Financial Dashboard, click **Organize my \$\$** under the dollar bill graphic on your account home page. Then follow the steps to enter your information and get started. The tool can then update your information automatically, so you always have a current view of your complete financial picture.

Your account is only a tap away. The **Voya Retire** mobile app allows you to access your retirement account, manage your savings and assess whether you are on track toward reaching your goals — on the go! ●

Three ways to save and invest your tax refund

You may be among the millions of people who will receive a federal income tax refund in 2019.

Think about what you did with last year's tax refund if you got one. Did you splurge and have nothing to show for it later?

With this year's refund, instead of spending it, you could:

- Set up or add to an emergency fund to cover unexpected expenses.
- Pay down credit card debt or student loans.
- Divide it up to accomplish several objectives at the same time.

While getting a refund is good, it still means that the IRS had your money all year. Wouldn't it be better to have that money working for you the whole time instead? Consider putting more of your pre-tax pay into your County of San Bernardino Defined Contribution Plan this year. It's money you didn't miss when it was with the IRS anyway.

If you aren't getting a refund this year, saving more to your retirement account could help change that. Every dollar you contribute on a pre-tax basis can reduce your current taxable income by a dollar. As your contributions go up, the income you report to the IRS can go down. That can help you owe less at tax time and maybe even get something back from Uncle Sam.

Saving more from your paycheck for retirement is a convenient, automatic way to pay yourself first and lower your tax bill. Log into your account today and review your current savings rate. ●

Tips for keeping your account secure

Protecting your personal information can reduce your risk of identity theft. You are your best first line of defense against fraud.

But the worst thing you can do is nothing. In fact, that's exactly what scammers and fraudsters are counting on you to do. Here are precautions you can take to help keep your online retirement account safe.

- **Change your password regularly.** Use a unique password that's a strong mix of upper and lower case letters, numbers and special characters. Avoid writing down or emailing passwords or Personal Identification Numbers. Don't share passwords or PINs or answers to security questions with anyone.
- **Monitor your account frequently.** It's easy to log into your account any time at [COSB.beready2retire.com](https://www.cosb.beready2retire.com).
- **Open statements and transaction confirmations immediately** to verify all activity on your account, such as contributions, withdrawals and transactions. To receive account information faster, sign up for electronic delivery of statements and other documents.
- **Take care of your computer and mobile devices.** Install the latest operating system, patches, and antivirus and antispyware software.
- **Don't use an automatic login feature** that saves your username and password, and always log off when you're finished viewing your account.
- **When you access your account** in an airport, library, hotel or other public place, make sure you're using a secure wireless network so your information is protected.

Online security isn't just for your retirement account. Use these tips for any account you have that could be susceptible to identity theft. Don't put off what you can do today to protect yourself! ●



This information is provided by Voya for your education only. Neither Voya nor its representatives offer tax or legal advice. Please consult your tax or legal advisor before making a tax-related investment/insurance decision.

Registered Representatives of and securities offered through Voya Financial Advisors, Inc., member SIPC.

*Insurance products, annuities and funding agreements are issued by Voya Retirement Insurance and Annuity Company ("VRIAC"), Windsor, CT. VRIAC is solely responsible for its own financial condition and contractual obligations. Plan administrative services provided by VRIAC or Voya Institutional Plan Services LLC ("VIPS"). VIPS does not engage in the sale or solicitation of securities. All companies are members of the Voya® family of companies. **Securities distributed by Voya Financial Partners LLC (member SIPC) or third parties with which it has a selling agreement.** All products and services may not be available in all states. © 2019 Voya Services Company. All rights reserved.*

Shook up by market volatility?

Don't panic. The ups and downs of the stock market aren't as unusual as they may seem.

The market can be volatile and that makes trying to time the market very risky. Research and history shows that you're betting against the odds when attempting to accurately time when to get in and out. It's similar to a gambler that feels he has somehow figured out how to "beat the house". For market timing to pay off, an investor has to correctly predict when the market will go up **AND** when it will go down — or vice versa. If you're wrong about the timing of one of these events, you could lose. Even the best day-traders see very mixed results. Are you really willing to gamble with your retirement funds?

In contrast, you may be tempted to sell off your assets after watching the market go down one day, then up the next. Resisting the urge to react to volatility, however, may allow you to benefit when it recovers. Instead, consider worrying more about the factors you can control, like how much you are saving. And consider putting more of your attention toward constructing a portfolio that reflects your risk tolerance and your long term retirement planning strategy.

Understanding the market cycle may be a key factor to getting the most out of your investment goals. Disciplined investing and managing your reaction to a bad market day or week could be the best hand you can play. Systematic investing does not ensure a profit nor guarantee against loss. Investors should consider their financial ability to continue their purchases through periods of low price levels. ●



quarterly calendar

Transactions made on these dates when the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) is closed will be processed the following business day that the NYSE is open:

- **Friday, April 19, 2019**
Good Friday
- **Monday, May 27, 2019**
Memorial Day