AN ACTIVE SENIOR'S GUIDE TO:

MAINTAINING FINACIAL INDEPENDENCE

OUJO Wealth Strategies

WWW.OUJOWEALTHSTRATEGIES.COM

CONTENTS

MEET THE ADVISORS

Anthony Sandomierski CPA/PFS, CFP, MS (Taxation)

Jason Gordon CPA/PFS, CFP, MS (Taxation)

ABOUT

OUJO
Wealth Strategies

At Oujo Wealth Strategies, we specialize in comprehensive financial planning designed to support you through every stage of life — and beyond. From retirement and investment strategies to tax planning, insurance, estate, and charitable giving. We take a thoughtful, integrated approach to help you build and protect your wealth.
We work with high-income earners, high-net-worth individuals and families, business owners, executives, active seniors, and those facing life transitions such as widowhood. No matter where you are in your financial journey, our goal is to simplify the complex and give you confidence in your next steps.
Above all, our clients are at the heart of everything we do. Providing exceptional service, clear communication, and truly personalized advice is our top priority. We're here to help you create a plan that not only supports your goals today — but also creates a legacy for the future.

INTRODUCTION

Staying financially independent in retirement is more than just covering your expenses- it's about keeping your freedom, peace of mind, and the ability to live life the way ***you choose.***

Unlike your working years, where income is earned, retirement is about using what you've built to live life with confidence- without the fear of running out or leaving a mess behind.

This guide is designed to walk you through the ***5 key steps*** to maintain your financial independence, protect your lifestyle, and leave a legacy that aligns with your values.

1) UNDERSTAND YOUR MONTHLY AND ANNUAL EXPENSES

Knowing how much you spend is the foundation of financial independence. Without it, even a well-funded retirement can feel uncertain.

Here’s how to get started:

Break down your expenses into ***essentials*** (housing, food, healthcare, etc) and ***discretionary*** (travel, entertainment, hobbies, etc.)

Use a spreadsheet, budgeting apply, or simply pen and paper to ***track monthly and annual expenses***

Don’t forget to include ***seasonal or irregular expenses*** like property taxes, insurance premiums, and gifts

Review this regularly to keep your plan updated and reflective of your lifestyle.

This gives you a clear picture of what you need to ***sustain your lifestyle*** and make informed choices moving forward.

2) UNDERSTAND YOUR INCOME SOURCES

Clarity around income ensures confidence and reduces stress during retirement.

Once you know what you need, the next step is knowing where your money will come from.

Common income sources in retirement include:

- Social Security
- Pension income
- Investment or retirement account distributions
- Annuities
- Rental income

Ask yourself:

- Are these income sources ***covering my lifestyle needs***?
- If not, where is the gap, and how will I address it?
- If I'm bringing in ***more that I need***, do I have a plan for how that excess will be used or passed on?

Spending *MORE* than what you're bringing in?

You need to get a handle on what the gap is. A strong financial plan really helps here.

Spending *LESS* than what you're bringing in?

You need to have a solid understanding of how much your estate could grow and a plan for what to do with your wealth.

3) KNOW YOUR DISTRIBUTION RATE–WHAT IS SAFE TO TAKE FROM YOUR ACCOUNTS?

One of the most important (and overlooked) retirement questions:

"How much is safe to take from my accounts each year?"

Too much and you risk outliving your money.
Too little, and you limit your lifestyle unnecessarily.

Here's how to get a rough idea of your ***distribution rate***:

+ Add up how much you're withdrawing from your retirement/investment accounts annually

÷ Divide that by your total investment/retirement account balances

What's sustainable?
That depends on:

- Your age and life expectancy
- Your portfolio mix and how much income it generates
- Your goals (Are you trying to grow your estate? Maximize income? Leave a legacy?)

This isn't a one-size-fits-all. We help our clients run personalized analyses to determine their ***unique and sustainable withdrawal rate***- because it's different for everyone.

4) PLAN FOR THE LIFE YOU WANT TO LIVE

Retirement isn't just about making it through- it's about ***making it meaningful.***

How do you want your money to support your lifestyle?

- Travel more?
- Support your grandkids' education?
- Give to causes you care about?
- Live in a specific place or type of home?

This step is about designing your financial plan to reflect your ***values and goals,*** not just your expenses.

Also, be sure to consider:

- ***Long-term care planning***- this can be a major expense, and the earlier you plan, the better.
- ***Intentional giving***- charitable gifts, family support, or gifting strategies during your lifetime.

Your financial plan should be a ***living document***- one that evolves with you.

5) PLAN FOR THE LEGACY YOU WANT TO LEAVE

You've worked hard for what you have- make sure it ends up where (and with whom) you want it to.

Key steps to take:

- Make sure you have a valid ***will, power of attorney, and healthcare directive***
- Ensure ***your executor/trustee(s) know where these documents are***
- Your estate plan should be crafted to what ***YOUR wishes*** are and not someone else's
- Minimize taxes and confusion by planning ahead with professional help
- Have ***open, honest conversations*** with your loved ones to prevent confusion and conflict

This isn't just about documents- it's about ***clarity, intention, and peace of mind.***

CASE STUDY: REAL CLIENT STORY

A married couple in their 60's came to us- healthy, vibrant, and ready to enjoy the retirement they worked so hard for.

Here's what their situation looked like:

- About $200,000/year in spending needs
- $8 million in retirement and investment accounts.
- A paid-off home worth about $1.5 million
- Emergency fund fully covered
- Not yet taking Social Security

Their withdrawal rate?
Just 2.5%- very sustainable. And they hadn't even started Social Security benefits!

We helped them design a smart strategy:

- Delay the higher earning spouse's Social Security for a larger benefit later
- Use the lower earner's benefit early to bridge the gap
- This approach protected the surviving spouse and created more income down the road.

We also:

- Developed a tax-efficient withdrawal plan
- Discussed Roth conversions to reduce future taxes and leave more tax-free assets to their kids
- Reviewed their insurance coverage to guard against lawsuits and unexpected expenses
- Built a portfolio designed for income now and growth for the future.

Most importantly:
We listened to what they wanted. They involved their adult children in the planning process. We explored how to use their wealth for things that mattered most- family trips, college funds for grandkids, home down payments, charitable giving.

They walked away with:

- A customized plan aligned with their goals
- Confidence in their future
- A strategy that matched their values.

This is the power of planning with purpose.

NEXT STEPS: WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF THIS SOUNDS LIKE YOU?

Want to know where you stand financially?

We offer a free personalized financial plan to help you get clarity on your current situation and future goals.

To get started, let's meet and see if we're the right fit.

Connect with us here:
Getting Started at Oujo Wealth Strategies

Disclaimer: This guide is for educational purposes only and should not be considered personal advice. Always consult with a professional before making financial decisions.