



# Roth 403(b) option offers tax-free retirement income

**ABOUT THE ROTH 403(B) OPTION:** The University of Notre Dame gives you the option of contributing to a Roth 403(b) through the UND 403(b) Retirement Plan. Does a Roth 403(b) make sense for you?

## AN ADDITIONAL WAY TO SAVE IN YOUR PLAN

Unlike a traditional pre-tax 403(b), the Roth 403(b) allows you to contribute after-tax dollars and then withdraw tax-free dollars from your account when you retire.\* The following information can help you decide whether the Roth 403(b) makes sense for you.

## HOW THE ROTH 403(B) COMPARES WITH A TRADITIONAL PRE-TAX 403(B)

Just as with a traditional pre-tax 403(b):

- You elect how much of your salary you wish to contribute.
- Your contributions to a Roth 403(b) and traditional pre-tax 403(b) cannot exceed IRS limits.
- Your contribution is based on your eligible compensation.

Unlike a traditional pre-tax 403(b), the Roth 403(b) allows you to withdraw your money tax free when you retire.\* But it will also require you to make after-tax contributions now.

Taxes: Pay now or pay later		
	Traditional Pre-tax 403(b)	Roth 403(b)
Employee Voluntary Contributions	Pre-tax dollars	After-tax dollars
Employee Withdrawals	Taxable upon withdrawal	Tax free upon withdrawal*

## ACTION PLAN

- Read this information about the Roth 403(b) option
- Contact a tax professional for specific advice on your personal situation

## WHO MIGHT BENEFIT FROM A ROTH 403(B)?

A Roth 403(b) could be a good option for:

- Younger employees who have a longer retirement horizon and more time to accumulate tax-free earnings.
- Highly compensated individuals who aren't eligible for Roth IRAs, but who want a pool of tax-free money to draw on in retirement.
- Employees who want to leave tax-free money to their heirs.

\*In the event of either retirement or termination, your earnings can be withdrawn tax free as long as it has been five tax years since your first Roth 403(b) contribution and you are at least 59½ years old. In the event of death, beneficiaries may be able to receive distributions tax free if the deceased started making Roth contributions more than five tax years prior to the distribution. In the event of disability, your earnings can be withdrawn tax free if it has been five tax years from your first Roth 403(b) contribution.

## THE ROTH 403(B): IS IT RIGHT FOR YOU? FOUR QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF.

The Roth 403(b) was designed to combine the benefits of saving in your tax-deferred workplace retirement plan with the advantage of avoiding taxes on your money when you withdraw it at retirement.

**1 Will I be in a higher marginal tax rate in retirement than I will be during my working years?** This is a question that nobody can answer with certainty. Marginal income tax rates have declined over the last two decades. If tax rates were to continue to decline, a traditional pre-tax 403(b) might be the better option. The same is true for individuals who expect their marginal tax rate to be lower in retirement as the result of a lower income.

### Generally:

- If tax rates stay the same, a traditional pre-tax or Roth 403(b) will likely yield the same nest egg after taxes.
- If tax rates rise, paying taxes now through a Roth 403(b) will likely yield a higher after-tax retirement benefit than a traditional pre-tax 403(b).
- If tax rates decrease, deferring taxes now in a traditional pre-tax 403(b) will likely benefit you more at retirement.

**2 Can I afford to maximize my contributions and save up to the IRS limit?** If you can afford it, making maximum contributions to a Roth 403(b) may be a good option. Since **any earnings accumulate tax free rather than simply tax deferred**, a qualified Roth 403(b) distribution could provide more cash upon retirement than an equivalent traditional pre-tax 403(b) distribution would.

**3 Do I want to leave tax-free money to my heirs?** Your beneficiaries may be able to receive your Roth account tax free if you die. Additionally, you can roll Roth 403(b) funds into a Roth IRA, potentially delaying minimum required distributions from those amounts during your lifetime.

**4 Do I make too much money today to invest in a Roth IRA?** Unlike Roth IRAs, there are no maximum income limits for Roth 403(b) contributions. Even if your income is too high to qualify for a Roth IRA, you can make Roth 403(b) contributions.

## THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- Because Roth contributions are under the same IRS limits as pre-tax contributions to your plan, each dollar of a Roth contribution reduces the amount that can be contributed pre-tax (and vice versa).
- Your take-home pay will be less than it would be if you made an equivalent traditional pre-tax 403(b) contribution, because income taxes must be currently withheld and paid on after-tax Roth 403(b) contributions.
- You do not need to choose between pre-tax and Roth contributions. If you prefer, you can designate some of your contribution as pre-tax and some as Roth.

### Sally's story

Sally earns \$40,000 annually and has elected to put a Voluntary Contribution of 6% in her Roth 403(b) and 6% in her traditional pre-tax 403(b) each month.

	Roth 403(b) <sup>†</sup>	Traditional Pre-tax 403(b) <sup>†</sup>
Sally's monthly Voluntary Contribution into each account	\$200	\$200
Sally's reduction in take-home pay is different	\$200	\$150

<sup>†</sup>This hypothetical example is based solely on an assumed federal income tax rate of 25%. No other payroll deductions are taken into account. Your own results will be based on your individual tax situation.

## MAKE AN INFORMED DECISION FOR YOUR RETIREMENT READINESS.

The University of Notre Dame gives you the choice of designating UND 403(b) Retirement Plan Voluntary Contributions as either traditional pre-tax, Roth, or a combination of the two. Whether you choose the Roth 403(b) really depends on which option is likely to benefit you most in the future.

It makes sense to consult a personal tax advisor before making a final decision, but this short checklist can help you focus on the key considerations:

### DECISION CHECKLIST

- |   |   |                              |                             |
|---|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Do you expect to be in a higher tax bracket in retirement than you are now? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 2 | Can you afford to maximize your contributions now?                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 3 | Do you want to leave tax-free money to your heirs?                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 4 | Do you earn too much to be eligible for a Roth IRA?                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

### HERE'S HELP

- Go to [Fidelity.com/atwork/roth](https://www.fidelity.com/atwork/roth).
- Call **800-642-7131** or visit [NetBenefits.com/ND](https://www.netbenefits.com/ND) to schedule a consultation with a Fidelity Retirement Planner.
- Contact a tax professional for specific advice on your personal situation.

Tip



Is the  
**Roth 403(b)**  
right for you?



Investing involves risk, including risk of loss.

This information is intended to be educational and is not tailored to the investment needs of any specific investor.

Approved for use in Advisor and 401(k) markets. Firm review may apply.

In this case, a qualified withdrawal is one that is taken at least 5 tax years after the year of your first Roth contribution and after you have attained age 59½, become disabled, or die.

Contributions to the plan are subject to the annual IRS limits. The aggregate of both pre-tax and Roth 403(b) contributions is subject to the annual IRS dollar limit.

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