

DO YOU WANT TO BE TAXED NOW OR LATER?



Planning for retirement **Traditional vs Roth 401(k)** contributions for employees

Taxes are inevitable, but when it comes to your 401(k), you can choose when they happen. Should you invest in a Traditional 401(k) or Roth 401(k)? Well, it depends — do you want to pay taxes now or later?

WEIGHING YOUR OPTIONS

If you expect your **income and tax bracket to be higher** in the future, then contributing to a Roth 401(k) may make the most sense.

If you're just starting out in your career, anticipating making much more in the future, or you think your taxes may go up over time, it may be beneficial to **pay the taxes up-front with a Roth 401(k)**.

If you **expect to stay at the same or similar income and tax rate**, or think **your income may go down** in retirement, a **traditional 401(k) may be the better choice**.

TRADITIONAL 401(K)

Contributions made pre-tax

Taxes paid on withdrawals

Money available penalty-free at age 59^{1/2}

ROTH 401(K)

Contributions made after-tax

Qualified withdrawals not taxed

Money available penalty-free at age 59^{1/2}, disability or death and account needs to be open for 5+ years



TRADITIONAL 401(K)

contributions are made on a pre-tax basis, and it lowers your current taxable income because you'll be deferring your taxes. However, you do have to pay taxes on your savings and any investment earnings when you withdraw the money at retirement.

ROTH 401(K)

contributions are made with after-tax dollars. You pay taxes now - at your current tax bracket- on your contribution amount. So, while your paycheck may be less today, this approach could pay off in the future. That's because you won't pay taxes on the balance in your account when you reach retirement age.

EXAMPLE

Income	\$50,000	\$50,000
Annual Contribution	\$6,000	\$6,000
Taxable Income	\$44,000	\$50,000
Taxes Due	\$9,680	\$11,000
Take-Home Pay	\$34,320	\$33,000

*Based on 2021 tax rates for single filers and a 22% tax rate

Here's the bottom line: Whether you opt to save for retirement in a Traditional or Roth 401(k), you should save as much as you can, for as long as you can. With the potential for growth, chances are your retirement account will be worth more in the future than it is today — no matter which option you choose.

Need help deciding which option is best for you? We can help!



**BJORK
GROUP**

Sean C. Bjork, CIMA®, AIF®
Vice President

Bjork Group
1033 Skokie Boulevard, Suite 210
Northbrook, IL. 60062
p.312.464.7082
seanbjork@bjorkgroup.com
www.bjorkgroup.com

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