Where should your money live?

Give every dollar a job – the purpose and timing of the money should influence where you put it

Place	Purpose	Key idea
Savings	Emergency & short-term needs	Safety + liquidity
401(k) / 403(b) / 457(b)	Retirement	Match + tax advantages
Traditional IRA	Retirement	Potential deduction + tax-deferred growth
Roth IRA	Retirement	Potential tax-free qualified withdrawals
HSA	Healthcare + long-term savings	Potential tax deduction + tax-free qualified medical withdrawals
Brokerage	Long-term & flexible goals	Access outside retirement accounts
Crypto	Optional speculative investment	High risk; only money you can afford to lose

If you have children — ***529:*** education savings with tax-free qualified withdrawals; limited 529-to-Roth IRA rollovers may be available if requirements are met. ***Trump Account***: new child IRA with a $1,000 federal pilot contribution for eligible children and generally a $5,000 annual contribution limit during the growth period.

Self-employed / Small business — SEP IRA and SIMPLE IRA can provide additional tax-advantaged retirement savings; rules differ from standard IRAs and 401(k)s.

Where should your next dollar go?

A starting framework—not a universal formula. Your income, taxes, debt, goals and risk tolerance matter.

1. Build stability	Emergency fund + high-interest debt?	Protect short-term needs.
2. Get the match	401(k)/403(b)/457(b) match?	Contribute enough to receive the full match, if appropriate.
3. Consider an HSA	Eligible?	Consider its tax advantages for healthcare and long-term savings.
4. Choose your IRA	Traditional or Roth?	Compare current vs. future taxes, income, eligibility and deductibility.
5. Increase retirement savings	Can you save more?	Increase workplace-plan contributions as your budget allows.
6. Add flexibility	Additional long-term goals?	Use a taxable brokerage account.
7. Add family goals	Children?	Consider a 529 or Trump Account where appropriate.
8. Consider crypto carefully	Want speculative exposure?	Keep it appropriately sized; use only money you can afford to lose.

Click on links above for additional information.