Is A Fixed Annuity Right For Me?
Whether you’re preparing for retirement or already enjoying it, a fixed annuity can help simplify your path to financial security. Fixed annuities offer several key advantages:

- **Safety of principal**
- **Guaranteed growth**
- **Tax deferral**
- **Access your money**
- **Guaranteed retirement income**
- **Leave a legacy**

**Simplify Your Path To Financial Security**

**Uncomplicate Retirement.**

Great American. It pays to keep things simple.
What is An Annuity?

Annuity basics
Simply put, an annuity is a contract between you and an insurance company. It is designed to protect and grow your money, and then provide a stream of income during your retirement. In fact, other than pensions, **annuities are the only products that provide guaranteed lifetime income**.

A fixed annuity has two phases – an accumulation phase and an income phase. During the accumulation phase, the money you contribute to your annuity will earn interest at a fixed interest rate. During the income phase, the money you’ve accumulated in your annuity can be turned into a stream of income payments.

Is a fixed annuity right for me?
A fixed annuity may be the right choice to protect your principal while safely growing your money at a fixed interest rate. In addition to these benefits, you will also enjoy the opportunity to receive retirement income.

What an annuity isn’t
It’s important to keep in mind that a fixed annuity is:

- Not a bond or a certificate of deposit (CD)
- Not insured by the FDIC like a bank CD or a checking or savings account. Annuity guarantees are backed by the financial strength of the issuing insurance company.
- Not available for “instant access” like a bank account. While a portion of your money is available each year for a penalty-free withdrawal, an annuity should be used as part of your long-term retirement plan.

Annuities protect your money and provide a guaranteed stream of retirement income.
When it comes to planning for a secure financial future, you need to know your money will be there when you need it. A fixed annuity provides principal protection. This means, regardless of market conditions, you won’t lose the money you contribute to your annuity unless you take a withdrawal or surrender your contract during the early withdrawal charge period.

How Is My Money Protected?

When it comes to planning for a secure financial future, you need to know your money will be there when you need it. A fixed annuity provides principal protection. This means, regardless of market conditions, you won’t lose the money you contribute to your annuity unless you take a withdrawal or surrender your contract during the early withdrawal charge period.

How Does My Money Earn Interest?

Fixed annuities will grow in value at a fixed interest rate. The initial interest rate is guaranteed for one or more years. After that, we will declare interest rates, which will never be lower than the guaranteed minimum interest rate stated in your contract.
One of the benefits of an annuity is the opportunity for your money to grow tax deferred. This means no taxes are paid until you take a withdrawal, so your money can grow at a faster rate than it would in a taxable product.

The following chart shows how a purchase payment of $100,000 grows in a tax-deferred product compared to a taxable product over the course of 20 years. See how the tax-deferred product outgrew the taxable product, even after paying a 20% tax. This increased growth can help you have more income for your retirement years.

Even after paying a 20% tax, the tax-deferred product outgrew the taxable product by more than $25,000.

This graph assumes a $100,000 qualified investment, accumulated for 20 years, with a 4% annual growth rate. Lower capital gains and dividend tax rates would make the taxable investment more favorable than the rate illustrated and reduce the difference in performance between these accounts. Consider your current and anticipated tax brackets in making your decision, as they may also impact comparison results. The amount of tax-deferred accumulation would be reduced if early withdrawal charges were reflected. This is a hypothetical scenario for illustration purposes only.

This information is not intended or written to be used as legal or tax advice. It was written solely to provide general information and support the sale of annuity products. You should seek advice on legal or tax questions based on your particular circumstances from an attorney or tax advisor.

For qualified contracts, the full amount withdrawn is generally subject to income tax. For other contracts, only the gains are subject to income tax. If you are under age 59½, the taxable amount is also generally subject to a 10% federal penalty tax.
Can I Access My Money Before Starting The Income Phase?

**Penalty-free withdrawals**
Our fixed annuities allow annual penalty-free withdrawals starting in the first contract year. The amount is typically a percentage of your account value.

It’s important to note amounts withdrawn in excess of the penalty-free withdrawal allowance may be subject to early withdrawal charges. Refer to your product’s Simple Summary for details. Additionally, withdrawals prior to age 59½ may be subject to IRS restrictions and a 10% federal penalty tax.

**It’s a simple fact: life is unpredictable**
While an annuity should provide retirement income, an emergency or unforeseen circumstance may require you to access your money earlier than planned. Our annuities include extended care and terminal illness waiver riders that allow you to withdraw your money without incurring an early withdrawal charge if the unexpected happens.

**Extended care waiver rider**
After the first contract year, if you are confined to a nursing home or long-term care facility for at least 90 consecutive days, you have the option to withdraw up to 100% of the account value without incurring an early withdrawal charge.

**Terminal illness waiver rider**
After the first contract year, if you are diagnosed by a physician as having a terminal illness, you have the option to withdraw up to 100% of the account value without incurring an early withdrawal charge. A terminal illness is defined as having a prognosis of survival of 12 months or less, or a longer period as required by state law.

Extended care and terminal illness waiver riders are not available in Massachusetts. In California, the Extended Care Waiver Rider has been replaced with the Waiver of Early Withdrawal Charges for Facility Care or Home Care or Community-Based Services Rider, which provides for a waiver of early withdrawal charges under an expanded variety of circumstances.
How Do I Receive Retirement Income?

A fixed annuity provides the opportunity to turn the money you’ve accumulated in your annuity into a steady stream of retirement income. Depending on which payout option you choose, income benefit payments are made for a specific number of years or for life.

**Income payout options**

**Fixed period**
You receive income benefit payments for a fixed period of time that you select.

**Life or life with a minimum fixed period**
You receive income benefit payments for life. If you select a minimum fixed period of time and pass away before the end of the period, the remaining income benefit payments are paid to the person you designate.

**Joint and one-half survivor**
Income benefit payments are guaranteed for your life and the life of a designated joint annuitant. If you are survived by the joint annuitant, he or she will receive 50% of the income benefit payment for life.
How Are My Loved Ones Protected?

No one likes to think about it, but part of achieving peace of mind is knowing what would happen to your money if you pass away unexpectedly. An annuity can help leave a financial legacy for your loved ones.

**Before income benefit payments begin**
If you pass away before income benefit payments begin, your beneficiaries are guaranteed to receive the account value (minus taxes and loan balances). Money is paid directly to your beneficiaries, which allows them to receive your financial legacy without the cost and delays of probate.

**After income benefit payments begin**
Depending on which payout option you select, the person you designated can continue receiving income benefit payments for a specific number of years or for life.
Great American.
It Pays To Keep Things Simple.™

Simple is great
Great American Insurance Group is committed to offering annuities that are simpler and easier to understand – helping to achieve your goals with no surprises.

Our financial strength
Preparing for your future with a financially strong company should be a high priority. Our annuity companies, Great American Life Insurance Company® and Annuity Investors Life Insurance Company® are proud to be rated “A” (Excellent) by A.M. Best and “A+” by Standard & Poor’s.

Serving with great pride for more than a century
With a heritage dating back to 1872, we have a long history of helping people achieve their financial goals. Our annuity companies are members of Great American Insurance Group and subsidiaries of American Financial Group, Inc. (AFG), which is publicly traded on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE: AFG). Headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio, AFG has assets of more than $52.5 billion as of June 30, 2016.

Our simple promise to you
We understand the importance of your retirement security. With medical advances in health care leading to increased longevity, it’s possible your retirement may last longer than 30 years. That’s why it’s important to work with a company that has long-term financial strength and experience. Our simple promise to you: superior service and annuities that are easier to understand.

A.M. Best rating affirmed May 12, 2016. “A” (Excellent) is third highest of 16 categories. S&P rating affirmed March 2, 2016. “A+” is fifth highest of 21 categories.
Products and features may vary by state, and may not be available in all states. See specific product disclosure document for details.

Products issued by Annuity Investors Life Insurance Company® and Great American Life Insurance Company®, members of Great American Insurance Group (Cincinnati, Ohio).

All guarantees subject to the claims-paying ability of the issuing company.