2020 · WHAT ISSUES SHOULD I CONSIDER WHEN BUYING A HOME?



CASH FLOW ISSUES	YES	NO
 Do you need help determining how much it will cost to own and maintain your new home? If so, consider the following expenses: The mortgage payment, property taxes, and homeowners insurance. The cost of the utilities and the cost to maintain the property (such as a new roof). Commuting costs, childcare, private education (if needed). 		
> Will you be planning on making changes/improvements to the property (such as a renovation or addition)? If so, consider how those future expenses will impact your financial situation.		
 Will this purchase impact your ability to save for other goals (such as retirement)? If so, consider prioritizing your goals and understanding the tradeoffs with each decision. 		
Are you married, and do you want your spouse or yourself to stay home (to raise children)? If so, consider if you will be able to pay for the home and living expenses on one income.		
Will you be living in the home for five years or less? If so, consider doing a break-even analysis to see if it may be cheaper to rent rather than own.		
MORTGAGE-RELATED ISSUES	YES	NO
Do you need assistance in considering the financial impact of different types of mortgages? If so, consider the following: Tradeoffs of mortgage terms and fixed/variable rates.		

MORTGAGE-RELATED ISSUES	YES	NO
 Do you need assistance in considering the financial impact of different types of mortgages? If so, consider the following: Tradeoffs of mortgage terms and fixed/variable rates. FHA loans versus conventional loans. A reverse mortgage may make sense in some situations, such as a retiree who is looking to change residences, living on a fixed income and would like to minimize monthly expenses. (continue on next column) 		

MORTGAGE-RELATED ISSUES (CONTINUED)	YES	NO
Did you serve in the military? If so, you may be eligible for a VA Home Loan, which may offer a lower interest rate.		
Do you need assistance in evaluating competitive interest rates?		
Are you working and will your total monthly mortgage payment (P&I, taxes & insurance) be 28% or more of your gross income? If so, some lenders may not be willing to lend money to you.		
Are you retired and have no earned income? If so, lenders may look at your portfolio value and/or your portfolio withdrawals to determine eligibility. Pensions and Social Security may also be taken into consideration.		
If you have other long-term debts, will the total debt payment (including the future mortgage) be 36% or more of your gross income? If so, some lenders may not be willing to lend money to you.		
 Do you have a low credit score or poor credit history? If so, consider the following: Review your credit report to ensure there are no inaccuracies. You may be charged a higher interest rate or denied a loan. Improve your credit score by paying bills on time and reducing some of your debt levels. 		
Do you expect to make any large purchases, opening new credit cards, or closing existing credit cards in the months leading up to the purchase of your home? If so, consult with your lender to ensure that it does not impact your credit score or loan application.		
 Do you need to gather the necessary documents to apply for the mortgage? If so, locate the following documents: The last two years' tax returns, W-2s, recent paystubs, drivers' license, or other identification. All financial statements (banks, investments, retirement accounts). (continue on next page) 		

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MORTGAGE-RELATED ISSUES (CONTINUED)	YES	NO
 Proof of funds that you will use at closing If you are receiving your down payment as a gift, you will need to provide a gift letter signed by the person gifting you money. 		

DOWNPAYMENT & CLOSING RELATED ISSUES	YES	NO
Do you need help determining closing-related costs (appraisals, loan origination fees, processing fees, points, attorney fees)?		
Do you need assistance in determining how much of a down payment should be made? If so, consider the following: Impact on cash flow If you are applying for a conventional loan and put less than 20% down, you may be subject to private mortgage insurance. Impact on emergency funds		
 Do you need assistance in determining how to fund the down payment? If so, consider the following: If you have a Roth IRA, contributions can be withdrawn without penalty at any time, and \$10,000 of earnings can be removed without penalty for first time home purchases, as long as the Roth account has been opened for at least five years. (per person limit). If you have an IRA, \$10,000 can be withdrawn penalty-free for first time home purchasers. However, income taxes still apply. If you have a 401(k), some plans have loan provisions. Down payment assistance programs may be available. 		

TAX PLANNING ISSUES	YES	NO
Will property and state income taxes exceed \$10,000? If so, you will not be able to deduct any amount over \$10,000.		
Will the mortgage debt exceed \$750,000? If so, you will not be able to deduct the interest over \$750,000 of loans. (continue on next column)		

Will you use part of your home for business? If so, consider the home office deductions. Office space must be used exclusively for business purposes. Do you plan on making improvements to the property? If so, consider tracking the cost of improvements, as they can be added to the cost basis if you eventually sell the home. ESTATE PLANNING ISSUES Should the home be owned by one spouse or owned by a trust? If so, consider the following: Trusts can avoid probate, which may be especially important for properties that are located in a different state than residency. Some states allow a Transfer on Death (TOD) deed. Will this purchase require you to update your will and estate plan?			
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