Northwest Ohio Annuity Rates & Income Guide

August 2026 Edition

Serious Money Ohio

Retirement Guidance and Confidence.

The Annuity Decision Process™

The Annuity Decision Process™ is the disciplined method Serious Money Ohio uses to help retirees make sound, defensible decisions about annuities — without sales pressure and without guesswork.

Step 1 — Prove a Need Exists

We begin by determining whether you actually need an annuity.

We compare your guaranteed income (Social Security, pensions) to your monthly expenses and identify any gaps or risks — longevity, market volatility, or income shortfall.

If there’s no gap, you may not need an annuity.

If there is, we define it clearly.

Step 2 — Justify an Insured Solution

If a need exists, we evaluate whether an annuity is the most efficient way to solve it.
We compare insured solutions (annuities) to non-insured solutions (investments, withdrawals, cash flow strategies) and determine which approach best transfers risk and protects income.

Step 3 — Match the Right Annuity

Only after proving the need and justifying the insured approach do we match the specific annuity type to your situation — MYGA, FIA, SPIA, or income rider — based on your goals, risk tolerance, and timeline.

This process is your protection against guesswork, sales pressure, and confusion.

How Annuities Fit into Your Retirement Income Plan

Annuities aren’t investments.

They’re retirement income tools.

They solve three common retirement problems:

- Will I have enough money every month?
- What if I live longer than expected?
- What happens if the market declines?

They complement:

- Your Social Security
- Your Pensions
- Your Savings
- Your 401(k)/IRA withdrawals and RMDs

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Multi-Year

Guaranteed Annuity Rates

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Term	Guaranteed Interest Rate	$100,000 Generates $ / Monthly	$100,000 Would Grow To -
3-Years	5.85%	$487	$118,596
5-Years	6.15%	$512	$134,772
7-Years	6.15%	$512	$151,858
10-Years	6.25%	$520	$183,353

The “interest monthly” column shows the approximate amount of monthly income the annuity could provide. The “grows to” column shows the guaranteed accumulation value, if the interest is allowed to compound over the full term.

Rates change. These rates assume a $100,000 deposit. MYGAs are available from $10,000. <u>This is the type of annuity used when predictability is most important.</u>

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Fixed Index Annuity Caps

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Term	Annual S&P 500 Interest Cap	Current Fixed Account	Free Withdrawal Provisions
5-Years	12.50%	4.50%	10% annually
7-Years	13.00%	4.50%	10% annually
10-Years	13.00%	4.50%	10% annually

In policy years when the S&P 500 index is up, you earn interest based on the percentage gain, limited by the annual cap. Currently these annual caps are over 12.50%. In policy years when the index is down, you earn 0%. But your account value does not decline due to market performance.

Rates and index caps change. These rates assume a $100,000 deposit. FIAs are available from $20,000.

This is the type of annuity used for indexed growth potential.

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Fixed Index Annuity

with Guaranteed Lifetime Income Benefit (GLWB)

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Your Age	Spouse's Age	<u>Immediate Annual</u> Benefit Amount - Payable for Your Lifetime(s)
65	**-**	**$23,000**
65	**65**	**$21,750**
70	**-**	**$25,500**
70	**70**	**$24,250**
75	**-**	**$27,000**
75	**75**	**$25,750**
80	**-**	**$28,000**
80	**80**	**$26,750**

These lifetime income amounts are for a **$250,000 deposit** and payments that begin within 30 days. It is also possible to defer the lifetime income benefit to a later date – this provides the opportunity for the income amount to grow. <u>This is the type of annuity planning often used to fill income gaps.</u>

Qualified vs Non-Qualified Money Annuity Benefits and Distinctions

Qualified Money (IRA, 401(k), 403(b), 457)

• Already tax-deferred
• All withdrawals taxed as ordinary income
• RMDs apply
• Ideal for income, simplicity, and risk reduction

Non-Qualified Money (Savings, CDs, Brokerage)

• Tax-deferred growth
• Only gains taxed
• Income may be partly tax-free
• No RMDs
• Ideal for tax-efficient growth and CD alternatives

Union & Public Pensions

(UAW, AFSCME, Teamsters, STRS, SERS, OPERS, Police & Fire)

Pensions are powerful — but rigid. Annuities add flexibility, inflation protection, and spousal security.

Union Pensions

- Joint-life options reduce income
- No COLAs
- Early retirement gap
- Lump-sum protection

Public Pensions (STRS, SERS, OPERS, Police & Fire)

- COLA reductions
- DROP/PLOP balances
- Spousal protection gaps
- Need for supplemental income

Annuities create:

- A second guaranteed income stream
- Inflation-responsive income
- Spousal protection
- More household stability

Checklist: What to Have Ready for Your Annuity Decision Process™ Meeting:

• Social Security benefit amounts or estimates
• Pension paperwork
• IRA/401(k)/403(b)/457(b), brokerage, savings, money market, CD and existing annuity statements
• Monthly cashflow of income and expenses
• Income and other retirement goals
• Questions or concerns

Schedule your complimentary phone call today –

A simple, structured conversation using the Annuity Decision Process™ to determine whether an annuity fits your retirement — and if so, which one. Helping you make confident decisions.

An Example of When We Recommended Against an Annuity

An Anonymous Client Story

Not everyone who contacts us needs an annuity.

In fact, one of the most important parts of our process is identifying situations where an annuity would add little value.

A few months ago, we met with a retired Northwest Ohio couple who wanted to know if they should move part of their savings into an annuity.

They wanted an objective opinion.

Their Situation

- Husband and wife, both age 75

- Healthy and active
- Combined Social Security and pension income: approximately $5,400 per month
- Traditional IRAs: approximately $1.3 million
- Savings and money market accounts: approximately $400,000
- Mutual funds outside retirement accounts: approximately $125,000
- Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) already underway
- Income Goal: approximately $9,500 per month

At first glance, they seemed like ideal annuity candidates.

They were retired. They wanted financial security. They liked guarantees. And they had substantial retirement assets.

The Question We Asked

Instead of discussing products, we asked a different question:

"What problem are we trying to solve?"

An annuity can be an excellent solution when someone needs:

- More guaranteed income
- Protection from running out of money
- Principal protection
- Relief from market volatility
- A pension-like paycheck

But those needs have to exist first.

What We Found

After reviewing their finances, the picture became clearer.

Although their monthly income goal is about $9,500, the difference between expenses and pension/Social Security income was **already being covered by Required Minimum Distributions** from their IRAs.

Their retirement assets were substantial. Their cash reserves were more than adequate. They were not real concerned about market fluctuations.

Most importantly, there was no fear of running out of money.

In other words, they already possessed something many retirees are looking for:

Financial flexibility.

The Tradeoff Didn't Make Sense

Every financial decision involves giving something up.

An annuity may provide guarantees, but those guarantees come with tradeoffs.

For this couple, purchasing an annuity would have meant exchanging a portion of their flexibility and liquidity for guarantees they largely didn't need.

Could we have found an annuity that worked? Of course.

Could we have shown them attractive income illustrations?

Absolutely.

But solving a problem they didn't have would not improve their financial situation.

Our Recommendation

We recommended they keep their current strategy.

No annuity. No product changes. No transfers. No unnecessary complexity. Sometimes the best recommendation is simply confirming that you're already in a strong position.

The Lesson

Many retirees assume annuities are either always good or always bad. Neither is true.

The better question is:

"Does an annuity solve a problem I actually have?"

If you need additional guaranteed income, principal protection, or greater confidence about lifetime retirement income, an annuity may deserve consideration.

If your income needs are already met, your assets are more than sufficient, and you value maximum flexibility, an annuity may provide little additional benefit.

The goal is not to buy an annuity.

The goal is to make the best decision for your retirement. Bottom Line: Some retirees need more guarantees. Others already have enough. One of the most valuable conversations you can have is finding out which group you're in.