

# Bighthouse SmartGuard Plus<sup>SM</sup>

## Help Improve Retirement Outcomes Through Tax Diversification

When planning for the future, it's important to consider the impact of taxes on an overall portfolio. Although life insurance is not a retirement plan and life insurance premiums are generally not tax-deductible, adding life insurance to a tax-diversified portfolio can help by providing a generally tax-free death benefit, tax-deferred growth opportunity for cash value, and a tax-advantaged way to supplement your income in retirement.

One way to think about your assets, including cash value life insurance, is to consider their tax treatment. Assets typically fall into one of these general categories:

### Taxable

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- Funded with after-tax dollars
- Owner receives a 1099 form for any interest or dividends earned

### Tax-Deferred

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- Typically allows for pre-tax or tax-deductible contributions as well as tax-deferred growth opportunities
- Upon distribution, taxable amounts are generally taxed as ordinary income

### Tax-Advantaged

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- Funded with after-tax dollars
- May have the option for tax-deferred growth
- May be distributed income tax free

## Assembling a Tax-Diverse Mix of Assets

When considering your retirement goals, one asset alone may not help you meet all of your objectives. That's why adding a life insurance policy to a portfolio that contains traditional retirement assets could help lower your income tax expenses in retirement.<sup>1</sup>

	Taxable	Tax-Deferred	Tax-Advantaged		Life Insurance Providing a Death Benefit
	Other Asset Types				
	Non-Qualified Brokerage	Pensions, Pre-Tax 401(k)/403(b) SEP/SIMPLE, Traditional IRA <sup>2</sup>	Roth 401(k)/Roth 403(b), Roth IRA, Roth SEP/SIMPLE <sup>3</sup>	Municipal Bonds <sup>4</sup>	Life Insurance Policy <sup>1</sup>
Income tax free death benefits					✓
Funded with pre-tax dollars		✓			
Tax-deferred growth		✓	✓		✓
Income tax free distribution <sup>1,3,4</sup>			✓	✓	✓
No additional tax for early withdrawals <sup>1,5</sup>	✓			✓	✓
Nontaxable distributions will not increase tax expenses, Social Security taxation, or Medicare premiums			✓		✓

<sup>1</sup> Generally, life insurance policies provide for tax-deferred earnings growth potential as well as a tax-free death benefit and may provide a way to supplement your income in retirement through policy loans. While a life insurance policy's death benefit is generally income tax free, exceptions may apply. Other taxes including estate, gift, or generation-skipping transfer taxes may also apply. If life insurance policy loans are taken, there may be income tax consequences if the policy is classified as a modified endowment contract (MEC), if the policy lapses, or if the policy is surrendered or exchanged. Distribution payments under a guaranteed distribution rider are in the form of policy loans and generally should not be subject to federal income tax if the life insurance policy remains in force and the policy is not classified as a MEC. Policy loans can significantly reduce the unloaned cash value and death benefit amount. A policy loan is generally not treated as a taxable distribution, but exceptions may apply. Particular tax results cannot be guaranteed. Consult with a tax professional about your individual circumstances.

<sup>2</sup> Traditional IRA contributions may be tax-deductible if certain criteria are met. Deductible contributions and any earnings are subject to ordinary income tax when withdrawn. Nondeductible contributions are not subject to taxation upon withdrawal only if IRS Form 8606 is filed with the IRS.

<sup>3</sup> Assuming the funds have been held in the account for at least 5 years and owner has reached age 59½ at the time withdrawals are taken. This assumes that any amounts distributed meet federal tax law requirements to be income tax free. Consult with a tax professional.

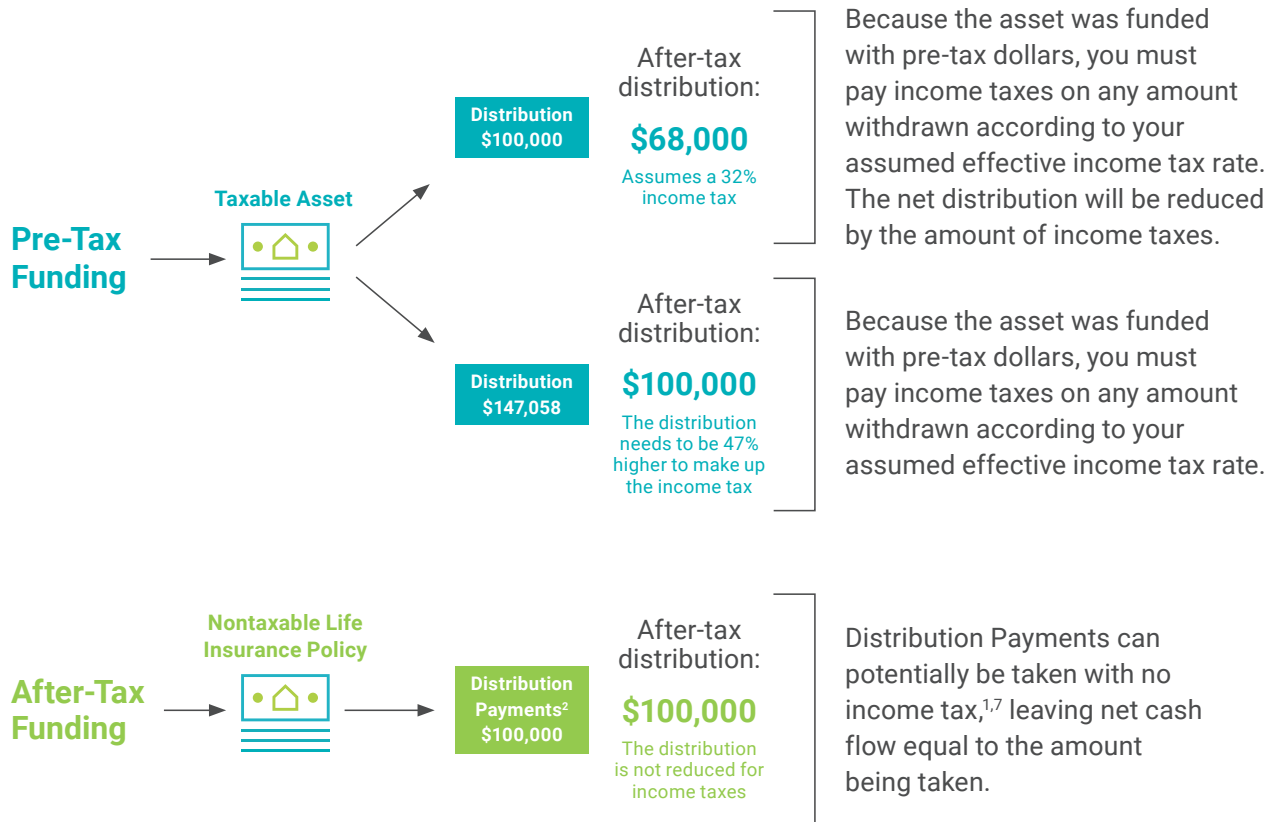
<sup>4</sup> Municipal bond interest is generally tax-free for regular federal income tax purposes but may be subject to the alternative minimum tax (AMT) and state income tax.

<sup>5</sup> Withdrawals are known as surrenders under Brighthouse SmartGuard Plus. Partial withdrawals are not allowed. This assumes the policy is not classified as a MEC. A policy classified as a MEC is subject to a 10% additional tax for distribution made prior to age 59½ unless an exception applies. Even though a 10% additional tax may not be applicable if the policy is not a MEC, a withdrawal may be taxable and subject to ordinary income tax.

## Tax Effect on Retirement Distributions

Taxable assets are generally subject to federal income taxes. The amount remaining after paying federal income taxes can erode the amount available for your retirement goals. Ordinary income taxes and capital gains taxes can contribute to the depletion of your retirement portfolio in comparison to a nontaxable asset with similar growth potential.

Hypothetical example for illustrative purposes only.



**Distribution payments under a guaranteed distribution rider are in the form of policy loans and generally should not be subject to federal income tax if the life insurance policy remains in force and the policy is not classified as a MEC.** Policy loans can significantly reduce the unloaned cash value and death benefit amount. A policy loan is generally not treated as a taxable distribution, but exceptions may apply. Particular tax results cannot be guaranteed. Consult with a tax professional about your individual circumstances.

## Protection Today Plus Flexibility for the Future

Building a strong financial future means working to protect your wealth while building toward your goals. Certain life insurance products, like Brighthouse SmartGuard Plus<sup>SM</sup>, can help supplement your retirement income and further diversify your plans.

Brighthouse SmartGuard Plus offers a mix of tax treatments<sup>1</sup> that can help limit the impact of taxes by providing:

- A generally income tax free death benefit<sup>6</sup>
- Tax-deferred growth opportunities for policy's cash value
- Tax-advantaged guaranteed Distribution Payments<sup>7</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Policy loans may significantly reduce the death benefit; however, the Guaranteed Distribution Rider (GDR) guarantees a minimum death benefit amount, assuming the policy and GDR remain in force. While the death benefit is generally income tax free, exceptions may apply. Other taxes including estate, gift, or generation-skipping transfer taxes may also apply. Consult with a tax professional.

<sup>7</sup> Available after the 10th policy year, Distribution Payments under the GDR are in the form of policy loans and can significantly reduce the unloaned cash value and death benefit amount. When the cash value reaches zero, the GDR will continue to support the availability of Distribution Payments. See the prospectus for more details. A policy loan is generally not treated as a taxable distribution, but exceptions may apply. Consult with a tax professional.

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To find out if Brighthouse SmartGuard Plus can help you reach your goals, talk with your financial professional or find more retirement education and resources at [brighthousefinancial.com](https://brighthousefinancial.com). For more information and details on the impact of taxes on your portfolio, please consult with a tax professional.

**This material must be preceded or accompanied by a prospectus for Brighthouse SmartGuard Plus, issued by Brighthouse Life Insurance Company, which contains information about the policy's features, risks, charges, and expenses. Clients should read the prospectus, which is available from their financial professional, and consider its information carefully before investing. Brighthouse Financial has the right to substitute an index prior to the end of a term if an index is discontinued or we determine that our use of such index should be discontinued.**

**Brighthouse SmartGuard Plus has limitations, exclusions, charges, termination provisions, and terms for keeping it in force, and is not guaranteed by the broker/dealer, the insurance agency, the underwriter, or any affiliates of those entities from which they were purchased. All representations and policy guarantees, including the death benefit and guaranteed Distribution Payments provided by the Guaranteed Distribution Rider, are subject to the claims-paying ability and financial strength of the issuing insurance company. Because the client agrees to absorb all losses beyond their chosen Buffer Rate, there is a risk of substantial loss of principal. Please refer to "Risk Factors" in the prospectus for more details.**

Brighthouse Life Insurance Company (BLIC) holds any net premium amounts applied to an Indexed Account in a Separate Account. BLIC maintains assets in the Separate Account at least equal to the policy's required reserves, which equals the policy reserves associated with the Indexed Accounts. Required reserves do not include reserves held in the Fixed Account, reserves for outstanding loans, or reserves associated with Distribution Payments or One-Time Payments. BLIC is obligated to pay all money owed under the policy, including policy proceeds and Distribution Payments, even if that amount exceeds the assets in the Separate Account. Any such amount that exceeds the assets in the Separate Account is paid from the BLIC General Account. Amounts paid from the General Account are subject to the financial strength and claims-paying ability of BLIC and are not guaranteed by any other party.

Distribution Payments under the Guaranteed Distribution Rider are made in the form of policy loans. A policy loan is generally not treated as a taxable distribution if the policy is not a MEC as defined under Internal Revenue Code Section 7702A and the policy remains in force during the lifetime of the insured. As a result, the company generally does not intend to report the benefits payable under the GDR to the IRS as taxable income based upon our current understanding of applicable tax law. Taxation and tax reporting may apply if the policy lapses, is surrendered, or becomes a MEC. The tax law is complex and subject to change. The company's tax reporting position may change in the future due to future IRS guidance as well as any clarifications or changes to applicable tax law. The company cannot guarantee particular tax results. Any discussion of taxes is for general informational purposes only, does not purport to be complete or cover every situation, and should not be construed as legal, tax, or accounting advice. Clients should confer with their qualified legal, tax, and accounting professionals to determine the tax consequences of the GDR and the policy.

Brighthouse SmartGuard Plus<sup>SM</sup> is a registered index-linked flexible premium adjustable life insurance policy with a Guaranteed Distribution Rider (GDR) issued by, and product guarantees are solely the responsibility of, Brighthouse Life Insurance Company, Charlotte, NC 28277, on Policy Forms 5-71-22 and 5GDR-22 ("Brighthouse Financial"). This product is distributed by Brighthouse Securities, LLC (member FINRA). All are Brighthouse Financial affiliated companies. Product availability and features may vary by state or firm. This product is currently not available in New York.

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