KINGSVIEW PARTNERS
GREENSBORO BRANCH - OCTOBER 2025

STARTING A BUDGET

When it comes to securing your financial future, budgeting makes all the difference. It's important to choose a strategy that best meets your needs, lifestyle, and goals. In this article, we'll go over just one way to get started, using John Doe as an example. Don't be afraid to adjust your budget- but also remember to hold yourself accountable when the numbers stop adding up.

1. DETERMINE YOUR FIXED NEEDS

These are things you need, which can't be easily adjusted to make room in your budget. Usually housing, transportation, fixed utilities, doctor bills, loan payments, and phone bills will fall under this category.

2. ROUND UP YOUR VARIABLE NEEDS

These are things like gas, clothing, and food that can vary depending on seasons, habits, and other factors. Determine the least amount you can reasonably spend in this category, then round up to account for potential variation (because life happens).

Example: If John only drives to and from work daily and tries to run all of his errands en route, he spends about $20 on gas per week. To be safe, he might round up to $100 or $110 per month in case gas prices rise or he needs to drive out of his way for an emergency or special event.

3. DETERMINE YOUR DESIRED SAVINGS

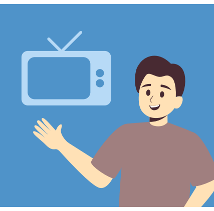
Instead of saying, "I want to save as much as possible", come up with something meaningful and motivating to you.

Example: John wants to go to Europe next Christmas, and the trip will cost him $3,000. To meet his goal, he needs to save about $250 per month.

4. TRIM BACK WANTS

Make a list of subscriptions and extra expenses you engage in that aren't necessary, but important to you. Be ready to make compromises with yourself to help you make reductions and meet your savings goal. This is also a good time to revisit your variable needs and determine if they can be adjusted.

Example: Since John hates TV ads, he can consolidate down to two premium TV subscriptions instead of five basic ones, and budget to slowly purchase his favorite rewatches.



When budgeting, it's important to **be realistic** and **give yourself grace**. Life happens. Even small changes can make large differences in the long run.

DEBT REDUCTION (INTRO)

Start by compiling a list or spreadsheet of your debts. Include their principals, interest rates, and minimum payments. Then, consult with your financial advisor and choose a method most in line with your financial goals.

Snowball Method: Start by working on paying off your smallest principals, progressing to your largest.

Avalanche Method: Start by attacking the debt with the highest interest rate and work your way down.

GREETINGS FROM "SUMMIT"

Greer and Lisa were invited to present on Pontera, while Jeff learned about Vestwell and how to make retirement plans easier for small businesses.