# **Preparing to reach retirement goals**

B and L Class





Navigating life together

## **MetLife Financial Freedom Select**



As individuals look to the future, they may aspire to live a certain lifestyle in retirement. Whether they choose a lifestyle that is challenging and invigorating or carefree and relaxed, they'll want one that is at least comparable to the one they live today — and one that is free of financial worries.

But security in retirement doesn't happen automatically. It takes planning and the foresight to help protect one's retirement income.

With planning, individuals can take control of their future, help prepare for the uncertainties as well as the possibilities — and retire the way they want.

## A MetLife<sup>1</sup> Financial Freedom Select (MFFS<sup>®</sup>) variable annuity can help. Individuals can create an investment strategy to fit their retirement goals and objectives.

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1. MetLife refers to Metropolitan Life Insurance Company.

# What is a variable annuity?

A variable annuity is a long-term retirement savings vehicle specifically designed to help individuals save for retirement, and can provide them with a stream of retirement income that they cannot outlive. A variable annuity contains funding options that have the potential to grow and other features, such as a death benefit and the ability to make payments to an individual for the individual's lifetime.

## Variable annuities:



Are one of the only investments individuals can buy that offer income for life, no matter how long they live.



Offer a choice of a standard death benefit or an enhanced death benefit (at an extra cost) that can help provide for individuals' loved ones, regardless of market conditions.



Offer funding options to help diversify and grow purchase payments on a tax-deferred basis (unlike Roth contributions, which are deducted after tax withholdings).<sup>1</sup> This may help individuals keep pace with inflation.



Give individuals the flexibility to withdraw portions or all of the account value if individuals choose.<sup>2</sup> Individuals can use the money as an ongoing source of income or withdraw it periodically, as unexpected financial needs arise.

- 1. If individuals are buying a variable annuity to fund a qualified retirement plan or IRA, they should do so for the variable annuity's features and benefits other than tax deferral. In such cases, tax deferral is not an additional benefit of the variable annuity. References throughout this material to tax advantages, such as tax deferral and tax-free transfers, are subject to this consideration.
- Retirement plan distributions before age 59½ or severance are generally prohibited. Distributions may also be restricted as defined in the plan documents. Where
  permitted, distributions of taxable amounts are generally subject to ordinary income taxes and, if made before age 59½, may be subject to a 10% federal income tax
  penalty. The 10% federal income tax penalty generally does not apply to 457(b) plans. In the case of 457(b) governmental plans, the 10% federal income tax penalty
  may apply to distributions of amounts rolled over from another type of qualified retirement plan or IRA.

Although a variable annuity may be an appropriate choice for some people as part of an overall retirement portfolio, it is not suitable for everyone. Please read the prospectus for complete details before investing.

To provide the investment and other benefits, variable annuities contain certain fees, including contract/certificate fees, a Separate Account charge, and variable funding option charges and expenses. The optional death benefit rider carries an additional charge and must be elected when the contract/certificate is issued.

Like most investments, variable annuity contracts/certificates will fluctuate in value and may be impacted by market declines, even when an optional protection benefit rider is elected.

Variable annuities are long-term investments. As a result, if individuals take distributions too soon, a withdrawal charge may apply. Retirement plan distributions before age 59½ or severance are generally prohibited. Distributions may also be restricted as defined in the plan documents. Where permitted, distributions of taxable amounts are generally subject to ordinary income taxes and, if made before age 59½, may be subject to a 10% federal income tax penalty. In the case of 457(b) governmental plans, the 10% federal income tax penalty may apply to distributions of amounts rolled over from another type of qualified retirement plan or IRA. Withdrawals will also reduce the living and death benefits and account value. Withdrawal charges may also apply. Please see the prospectus for complete details.

# Funding options that offer choice and flexibility

#### With the MFFS variable annuity, individuals have the flexibility to:

- invest in professionally managed asset allocation portfolios, or
- · design an individual's own asset allocation strategy

#### And individuals may choose from:

- multi- and single-manager asset allocation portfolios
- · actively managed portfolios or passively managed index portfolios
- · a diverse lineup of equity and fixed income funding options

## For up-to-date information on all the funding options available for MFFS, please visit <u>metlife.com/mffs</u>

## **Asset allocation portfolios**

Individuals may choose from a broad selection of multi- and singlemanager asset allocation portfolios, designed for different types of investors:

- American Funds Moderate, Balanced and Growth Allocation Portfolios
- Brighthouse Asset Allocation Portfolios<sup>1</sup>— Brighthouse Asset Allocation 20 Portfolio, Brighthouse Asset Allocation 40 Portfolio, Brighthouse Asset Allocation 60 Portfolio, Brighthouse Asset Allocation 80 Portfolio and Brighthouse Asset Allocation 100 Portfolio
- Fidelity® VIP Freedom Fidelity® VIP Freedom 2025 Portfolio, Fidelity® VIP Freedom 2030 Portfolio, Fidelity® VIP Freedom 2035 Portfolio, Fidelity® VIP Freedom 2040 Portfolio, Fidelity® VIP Freedom 2045 Portfolio, Fidelity® VIP Freedom 2050 Portfolio, Fidelity® VIP Freedom 2055 Portfolio and Fidelity® VIP Freedom 2060 Portfolio
- State Street Global Advisors (SSGA) Growth and Income ETF and Growth ETF Portfolios

Asset allocation portfolios are "fund-of-funds" portfolios. Because of this two-tier structure, each asset allocation portfolio bears its own investment management fee and expenses, which include the cost of the asset allocation services it provides, as well as its pro rata share of the management fee and expenses of each underlying portfolio. Without these asset allocation services, the contract/certificate owner's expenses would be lower. Diversification does not ensure a profit or protect against loss.

1. Wilshire Funds Management ("Wilshire®") serves as a consultant to Brighthouse Investment Advisers, LLC for these asset allocation strategies.

Brighthouse Investment Advisers, LLC is the investment adviser to certain asset allocation portfolios. Brighthouse Investment Advisers, LLC (for the American Funds® Asset Allocation Portfolios and Brighthouse Asset Allocation Portfolios) and SSGA Funds Management, Inc. (for the SSGA ETF Portfolios) choose the underlying funding options for each portfolio and the proportions of each underlying funding option allocated to each portfolio. To ensure optimal diversification and an appropriate balance of risk and reward, Brighthouse Investment Advisers, LLC (for the American Funds and Brighthouse Asset Allocation Portfolios) and SSGA Funds Management, Inc. (for the SSGA ETF Portfolios) and Brighthouse Asset Allocation Portfolios) and SSGA Funds Management, Inc. (for the SSGA ETF Portfolios) and Brighthouse Asset Allocation Portfolios) and SSGA Funds Management, Inc. (for the SSGA ETF Portfolios) review the portfolios on a consistent basis and may make adjustments to the fund holdings or allocations.

## **Automated investment strategies**

Individuals can choose from one of four automated investment strategies,<sup>1</sup> designed to help them manage their money. Each investment strategy is available for no additional charge.

## The Allocator<sup>s™</sup>

Each month, a dollar amount individuals choose is transferred from the Fixed Interest Account to any of the funding options they choose.

#### The Equity Generator®

Each month, an amount equal to the interest earned in the Fixed Interest Account is swept into the funding option of an individual's choice.

## The Index Selector®

Individuals may select from one of five Index Selector asset allocation models, based on varying levels of risk tolerance. Based on the model they choose, the entire account balance is allocated among five index portfolios that seek to replicate the returns of five indices, as well as the Fixed Interest Account. Each Index Selector Model has a different percentage of some or all of the five index portfolios and the Fixed Interest Account. The Index Selector strategy will reallocate the holdings every quarter to match the original allocations.

## The Rebalancer®

When individuals choose multiple funding options, including any of the asset allocation portfolios, they can help ensure that the percentage allocations stay consistent by electing this strategy. If the funding mix becomes unbalanced due to market conditions, we will automatically readjust them each quarter to bring them back in line with the original allocation.

1. No investment strategy can guarantee a profit or protect against a loss. Only one investment strategy may be in effect at a time. The Equity Generator and the Allocator are dollar cost averaging strategies that involve continuous investment in securities regardless of fluctuating price levels. Participants should consider their ability to continue purchases through periods of low price levels. The Equity Generator will automatically be discontinued if the Fixed Interest Account balance at the time of a scheduled transfer is zero. Individuals should consider whether it is appropriate for them to continue this strategy over time if their risk tolerance, time horizon, or financial situation changes. This strategy may experience more volatility than our other strategies. The asset allocation models used in the Index Selector strategy may change from time to time. These investment strategies may not be elected when a loan is outstanding (if loans are permitted by plan).

# Facts at a glance

Funding options	<ul> <li>Asset Allocation Portfolios</li> <li>Index Portfolios</li> <li>Portfolios that invest in Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs)</li> </ul>	<ul><li> "Fund-of-Funds"</li><li>Fixed Interest Account</li></ul>	
Automated investment strategies <sup>1</sup>	The Allocator     The Equity Generator     The Index Selector     The Rebalancer		
Minimum contributions	None. If no contributions are made for more than 24 months (36 months in NY) and the account balance is under \$2,000, MetLife may cancel the contract/certificate, if permitted by law, by paying the account balance less any outstanding loans (if loans are permitted by plan). Early withdrawal charges may apply.		
Transfers	Free, non-taxable, unlimited. (Restrictions may apply. See prospectus for more details.)		
3% Rollover distribution and direct transfer credit	A 3% bonus (2% in NY) on eligible transfers in the first two contract/certificate years on B and L classes only. (Not available on transfers from other MetLife or MetLife affiliates' products or if individuals are over age 65 on the contract/certificate issue date). Other restrictions apply. See prospectus for details.		
Income for life	Guarantee a stream of lifetime income.		
Benefit sensitivity	<ul> <li>No contract/certificate withdrawal charge will apply upon: <ul> <li>annuitization</li> <li>death</li> <li>a direct transfer to another MetLife approved product</li> <li>any withdrawal required to avoid federal income tax penalties or satisfy federal income tax rules (for this annuity contract/certificate only)</li> </ul> </li> <li>After the first contract/certificate year, no contract/ certificate withdrawal charge will apply upon: <ul> <li>disability<sup>2</sup></li> <li>terminal illness<sup>2</sup></li> <li>confinement to a nursing home<sup>2</sup></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul> <li>After five years<sup>3</sup> from the issue date of the contract/ certificate, no contract/certificate withdrawal charges will apply upon: <ul> <li>retirement</li> <li>severance from employment with the employer individuals had at the time they purchased the contract/certificate</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
Death benefit	Assuming income has not started, the standard death benefit is the greatest of: (1) Account balance; (2) total purchase payments reduced proportionately for withdrawals (including any applicable withdrawal charges). In each case, the amount is reduced by any outstanding loans, where loans are permitted by plan.		
Optional annual step-up death benefit	The Optional Annual Step-Up Death Benefit is the greatest of <b>(less outstanding loans, where loans are permitted by plan):</b> (1) Account balance; (2) Total purchase payments reduced proportionately for withdrawals; (3) "Highest Anniversary Value" on any contract/certificate anniversary prior to owner's 81 <sup>st</sup> birthday, plus any subsequent purchase payments and reduced proportionately for withdrawals. This benefit must be elected at the time of purchase and is irrevocable. There is an additional charge of 0.10% annually.		
Access to money	After the first contract/certificate year, an individual may withdraw up to 10% of their total account balance per contract/ certificate year. This 10% total withdrawal may be taken in an unlimited number of partial withdrawals during that contract/ certificate year. These withdrawals are made on a non-cumulative basis. <sup>4</sup>		
Annual contract/ certificate fee	A \$30 annual contract/certificate fee is deducted on a pro rata basis. This fee will be waived if: (1) Account balance exceeds \$25,000, or (2) purchase payments exceed \$2,000 within the last 12 months (fee not deducted from the Fixed Interest Account).		
Annual Separate Account charge	<ul> <li>B Class: 1.15%</li> <li>L Class: 1.30%</li> <li>Annual Separate Account charges for American Funds funding options are an additional 0.25%. Additional investment-related fees and expenses will apply to the selected funding options and optional death benefit.</li> </ul>		
Withdrawal charges <sup>2,4</sup>	The following withdrawal charges apply to the amount withdraw certificate issue date.	n from the account balance based on the age of the contract/	
	<ul> <li>B Class: 12-year withdrawal charge schedule: 9%, 9%, 9%, 9%</li> <li>L Class: 7-year withdrawal charge schedule: 9%, 8%, 7%, 6%, The fees and charges mentioned above do not include investr options under the contract/certificate. Withdrawal charge sc more information.</li> </ul>	5%, 4%, 2%, 0% nent management fees and other expenses of the funding	

# **Prepare for retirement**

Individuals should decide if an MFFS variable annuity from MetLife is right for them and can decide on the investment strategy and which optional benefit best fit their needs.



- 1. No investment strategy can guarantee a profit or protect against a loss. Only one investment strategy may be in effect at a time. The Equity Generator and the Allocator are dollar cost averaging strategies that involve continuous investment in securities regardless of fluctuating price levels. Participants should consider their ability to continue purchases through periods of low price levels. We will continue to implement the Index Selector strategy using the percentage allocations of the model that have been in effect at the time individuals commence implementation of the strategy. These percentages will not change. Individuals should consider whether it is appropriate for them to continue this strategy over time if their risk tolerance, time horizon, or financial situation changes. This strategy may experience more volatility than our other strategies. The asset allocation models used in the Index Selector strategy may change from time to time.
- 2. Terminal illness and confinement to a nursing home do not apply to the 403(b) ERISA, 403(a), 457(b), and 401 markets. May not be available in all states, all ages or all tax markets. Must also be less than age 65 to receive the Disability Benefit. Social Security definition applies. Must be less than age 80 on contract/certificate issue to receive the nursing care and terminal illness waivers of withdrawal charges. Other restrictions apply. See the prospectus for details.
- 3. No five-year wait for retirement and severance in the 403(b) ERISA, 403(a), 457(b), and 401 markets.
- 4. Retirement plan distributions before age 59½ or severance are generally prohibited. Distributions may also be restricted as defined in the plan documents. Where permitted, distributions of taxable amounts are generally subject to ordinary income taxes and, if made before age 59½, may be subject to a 10% federal income tax penalty. The 10% federal income tax penalty does not apply to 457(b) plans. In the case of 457(b) governmental plans, the 10% federal income tax penalty may apply to distributions of amounts rolled over from another type of qualified retirement plan or IRA.

Guarantees apply to certain insurance and annuity products (not securities, variable or investment advisory products) including optional benefits, and are subject to product terms, exclusions and limitations and the claims-paying ability and financial strength of Metropolitan Life Insurance Company.

The information contained in this document is intended to be informational in nature and should not be considered a recommendation or individualized advice.

This product is a long-term investment designed for retirement purposes.

MetLife Financial Freedom Select variable annuity products are offered by prospectus only. To obtain a prospectus, please contact MetLife customer service center at 1-833-642-1008. Individuals should carefully read the product prospectus and consider the product's features, risks, charges and expenses, and the investment objectives, risks and policies of the underlying portfolios, as well as other information about the underlying funding options. This and other information is available in the prospectus, which individuals should read carefully before investing. Product availability and features may vary by state. All product guarantees, including optional benefits, are subject to the financial strength and claims-paying ability of Metropolitan Life Insurance Company.

The amounts allocated to the variable funding options are subject to market fluctuations so that, when withdrawn, they may be worth more or less than their original value. There is no guarantee that any of the variable funding options will meet their stated goals or objectives.

Like most annuity contracts/certificates, MetLife's contracts/certificates contain charges, limitations, exclusions, holding periods, termination provisions and terms for keeping them in force.

MetLife and/or its affiliates ("MetLife") receive fees for providing administrative and recordkeeping services. The fees may be deducted directly from the Participant's account, be paid for by the Employer, be paid from the Plan assets and/or paid from the fees deducted from Participant account values allocated to the mutual funds available under the Plan. The fees can vary based upon the mutual funds that are available in the Plan and Plan Participants' asset allocations. Because different mutual funds pay different rates of compensation and rates of mutual fund compensation are subject to change from time to time, compensation received by MetLife varies based on the rates of compensation in effect from time to time. MetLife may receive a finder's fee from certain fund companies, which is additional compensation to MetLife. MetLife may also impose separate transactional fees for certain Participant elected transactions that will be charged directly to Plan Participants unless paid by the Employer or the Plan. MetLife may increase the annual administrative service fee charged to Participants' accounts. MetLife may also pay a portion of the fees it collects to an entity that is designated as a directed trustee or directed custodian of the Plan; or to a third party administrator, or third party investment advisor. MetLife may receive payments for administrative services provided under the third party investment advisory services. MetLife also receives compensation for administrative services on annuities that are issued by unaffiliated insurance companies. MetLife also receives fees with respect to annuities it issues, according to the terms of the annuity contracts and prospectuses, if applicable. If you would like more information on the compensation that MetLife receives, contact your Employer. MetLife may realize a profit from any of the fees described above.

Withdrawals will reduce the living benefit, death benefit and account value of the annuity contract/certificate and may be subject to withdrawal charges. Because the purchase of an annuity through an employer retirement plan does not provide additional tax-deferral benefits beyond those already provided through the retirement plan, individuals should consider the annuity for its death benefit, annuity options and other non-tax related benefits.

If you are buying a variable annuity to fund a qualified retirement plan or IRA, you should do so for the variable annuity's features and benefits other than tax deferral. In such cases, tax deferral is not an additional benefit of the variable annuity. References throughout this material to tax advantages, such as tax deferral and tax-free transfers, are subject to this consideration.

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 advisors as appropriate.

Distributions of qualified salary reduction contributions allocated to the account, and any earnings on such contributions, are generally not permitted prior to attaining normal retirement age under an individual's retirement plan except under certain situations, such as severance from employment with the employer sponsoring the plan or an individual's death, disability or hardship (or 457(b) unforeseeable emergency) as permitted by the plan. Distributions of contributions and any earnings may also be restricted as defined in the plan documents. Individuals should contact their plan administrator to determine when and under what circumstances they may request a distribution from their plan. Where permitted, distributions of taxable amounts are generally subject to ordinary income tax and, if made before age 59½, may be subject to a 10% federal income tax penalty.

In the case of 457(b) governmental plans, there is no 10% federal income tax penalty except that the 10% federal income tax penalty may apply to distributions of amounts previously rolled over to a governmental 457(b) plan from another type of employer retirement plan or IRA. Individuals should consult with their tax advisor to determine if an exception to the 10% federal income tax penalty may apply.

MetLife Financial Freedom Select variable annuity is issued by Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, 200 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10166, and distributed through MetLife Investors Distribution Company (member FINRA). Both are MetLife companies. Policy Form numbers G.FFS(08/02) and G-MFFS-1(8/04).

Not A Deposit 

 Not FDIC-Insured
 Not Insured By Any Federal Government Agency
 Not Guaranteed By Any Bank Or Credit Union
 May Go Down In Value

