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Senior tax partner

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Think Roth

Adam Bergman is a fan of the Roth IRA, calling it "one of the most powerful retirement savings tools." In 2017,



it's smarter than ever to start a Roth IRA or convert a traditional IRA into a Roth IRA, he says. Roth IRAs offer tax-free withdrawals. If tax rates are lowered, as promised by President Trump, the amount a traditional IRA holder would pay in taxes on the conversion would be less. "Basically, you would lock in the Roth conversion at a lower tax rate, and now you have a Roth account that grows tax-free," Bergman says. "A Roth is the best tax shelter you can get, and we don't know where the tax rate is going to go in 10 or 15 years, so this is a great opportunity."

For younger investors, Bergman, author of a book aimed at teaching millennials about compounding and tax-deferred savings, says the right move is any move toward savings. "If you start saving in your 20s and you're consistent, you will have hundreds of thousands of dollars when you retire," he says, emphasizing that while young, it doesn't matter if a millennial buys stocks, index funds or gold. "Your money is going to grow for you. What's important is that money is saved, rather than where it's invested."

Lastly, Bergman encourages people who are self-employed to start a 401(k), which allows a plan holder with sufficient income to make a tax-deductible contribution of up to \$54,000 this year, or \$60,000 if he or she is over 50. "It is the most robust retirement account for the self-employed."