



MORTGAGE QUESTIONS TO ASK

A helpful checklist to guide your homebuying journey

Whether you're buying your first home, getting back on your feet, or exploring your options, walking into a meeting with a mortgage loan officer can feel overwhelming. Use these questions to get the clarity and support you need to make confident decisions.

Understanding What You Can Afford

- What kind of mortgage loans do I qualify for?
- What would my estimated monthly payment look like for a home in my price range?
- How much should I plan to save for a down payment and closing costs?
- Are there low down payment options or down payment assistance programs available to me?

Rates, Credit, and Pre-Approval

- What is today's interest rate, and how does it affect my monthly payment?
- Is a fixed-rate or adjustable-rate mortgage a better option for me?
- What credit score do I need to qualify, and how does mine affect my options?
- Can I get pre-approved, and how long will it last?

Income, Debt & Qualifications

- How do my current debts (like credit cards, student loans, or car payments) impact my mortgage approval?
- What documents do I need to apply?
- What is my debt-to-income ratio, and how does that factor into loan approval?

Programs and Support

- Are there any special programs for first-time homebuyers I should know about?
- Do you work with or recommend any trusted housing counselors?
- Can you help me connect with financial education tools or credit-building support?

Process & Next Steps

- What does the full mortgage process look like from pre-approval to closing?
- How long does the process usually take?
- What should I be doing right now to prepare?

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Visit our Resource Centers at

AmericaSaves.org & VeteranSaves.org

Take the Savings Pledge to stay focused on your homeownership goals.