



**Taking financial futures  
above and beyond**





# MassMutual Ascend

## Taking financial futures above and beyond

When you envision a future that fulfills you, maybe you see yourself traveling, cooking, spending time with family or discovering a new hobby. When you purchase an annuity, you're taking an important step to help make your dreams a reality.

As a leading provider of annuities, we see our products as more than just contracts. Our annuities are transparent and easier to understand, so you always know what to expect. And whether you want to protect your savings, accumulate more or leave a legacy for your loved ones, we're here to help get you on the road to reaching your goals.

**At MassMutual Ascend, we are committed to going above and beyond – so when it comes to your financial future, the impossible feels possible.**



**Ratings at a glance<sup>1</sup>**

AM Best	A++
Standard & Poor's	A+

# A long history of strength

We take a long-term approach to managing our business that is focused on delivering value to our customers while maintaining the highest level of financial strength.

## Financial strength ratings

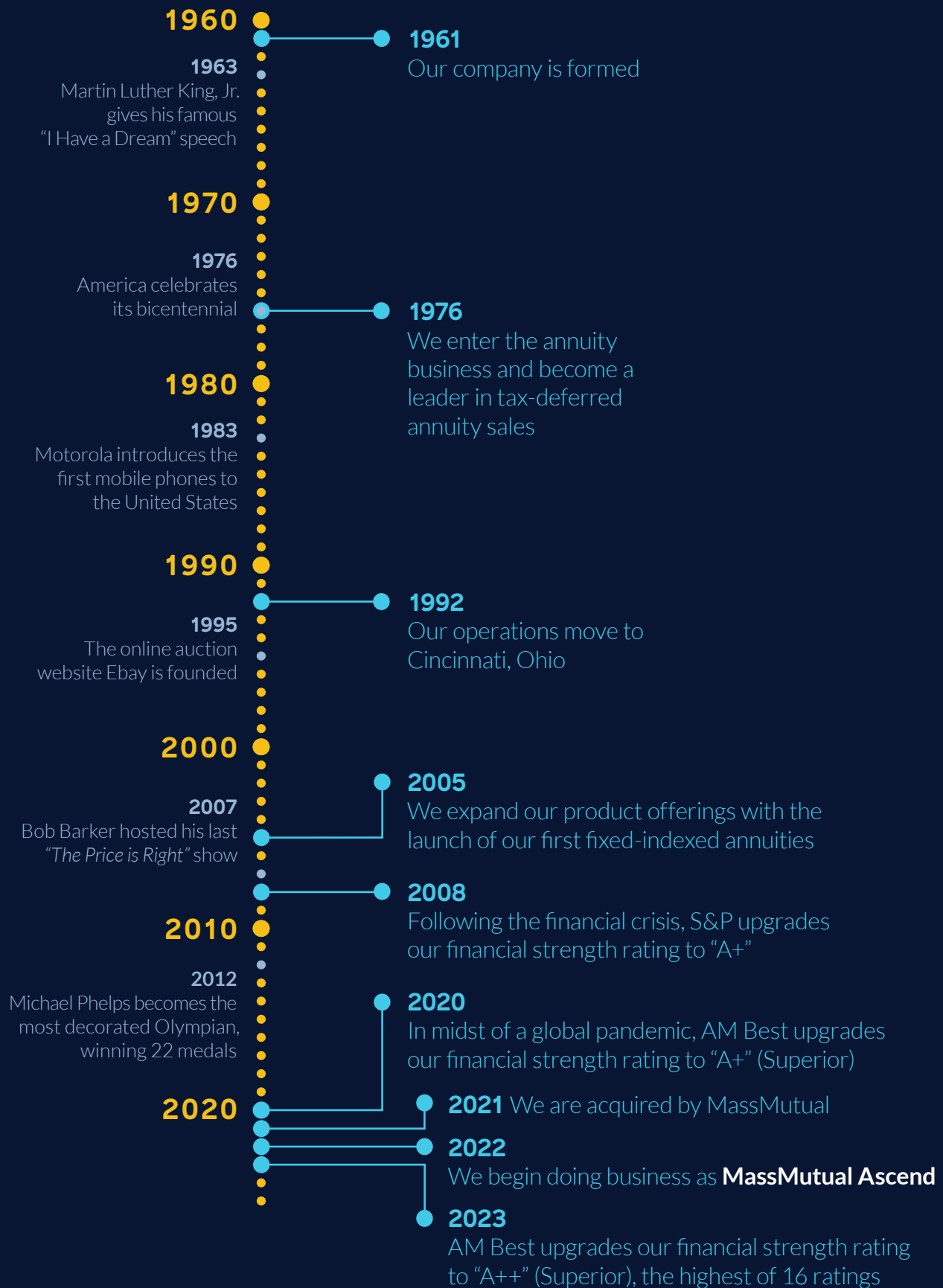
Third-party agencies regularly evaluate insurance companies' stability and award financial strength ratings. These ratings indicate the company's ability to fulfill its financial obligations to its customers. At MassMutual Ascend, we're committed to simplifying your financial goals by always backing you with ratings you can count on.

While many insurance companies have seen their ratings fluctuate, we received:

- An upgrade to "A++" by AM Best in 2023
- Two upgrades since 2007, now at "A+," by Standard & Poor's

**We are proud to have received an "A" or higher rating by AM Best for more than 40 consecutive years, so you can have financial confidence knowing we'll be here when you need us.**

# Five decades of experience



# Three simple keys to success

The key achievements that have helped us maintain our strong ratings include:

## Solid operating performance

In the last decade, our gross annuity premiums have more than doubled to \$48 billion.<sup>2</sup> This tremendous premium growth demonstrates our continuing commitment to providing annuities that can help you reach your long-term goals.

In 2022, we proudly issued more than 57,000 new annuities, the most in company history.



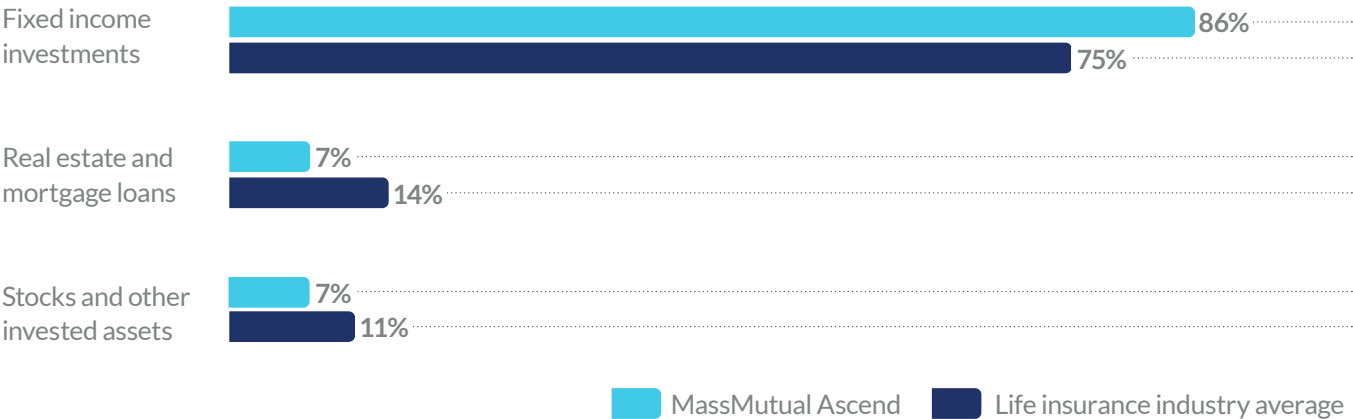
Over the past 50 years, hundreds of thousands of people have entrusted a piece of their financial future to MassMutual Ascend. We would be honored to help take your financial future above and beyond, too.

## Continued record levels of capital

At MassMutual Ascend, we have the financial backing to continue to grow and weather the inevitable swings in the financial marketplace. All insurers are required to maintain a minimum level of risk-based capital to support business operations while offering annuities. Our risk-based capital level significantly exceeds the requirement. Maintaining strong capital positions means that we will be here to serve you in the long run.

## A long-term investment approach

We are one of the most conservatively managed annuity providers in the marketplace. Fixed income investments comprise approximately 86 percent of our invested assets, compared to the insurance industry average of approximately 75 percent.<sup>3</sup> Our distribution of invested assets creates a low risk and stable profile. We take a long-term approach to managing our business, which means we make prudent investment decisions. In fact, 94 percent of our fixed maturity portfolio had a National Association of Insurance Commissioners rating of 1 or 2 as of December 31, 2022 – the highest of six possible ratings.



# Above and beyond. At the core of everything we do.

At MassMutual Ascend, we're committed to taking financial futures above and beyond. The status quo isn't a status we ever want. We'll always be in pursuit of better – so you can navigate your financial future with confidence.

## Our transparency

Finding a product that fits your personal situation and future goals is important. At MassMutual Ascend, we focus on providing transparent and easy-to-understand products designed with your needs in mind.

## Our service

Everything we do is rooted in a culture of service. We simplify customer support by giving you what you need, when you need it. We seek to provide an accessible experience – from purchasing an annuity to finding your account information, we want you to feel in control every step of the way.





## Our people

At MassMutual Ascend, our collaborative culture is key to our success. It's the reason we're a leading provider of annuities today, and it's the reason we'll continue rising to the top tomorrow. We work together to achieve results by listening, seeking, understanding and creating solutions as a unified team.

## Our financial strength

We want to simplify your financial goals by always backing you with ratings you can count on. At MassMutual Ascend, we're here to provide you with financial confidence for many years to come. Plus, our commitment to our customers is as strong as ever. Since 2000, we have paid more than \$11 billion in guaranteed income benefits to our valued contract owners, including more than \$1.3 billion in 2022.<sup>4</sup>

# Our values and ethics

Our core values aren't just about what we do, but how we do it. These principles guide us in our mission to take financial futures above and beyond:



## Focus on the customer

We look for every opportunity to deliver an experience that is clear, easy, personal, human, empowering and trustworthy.



## Act with integrity

We deliver on our promises by being open, honest and humble, and by adhering to governing laws and company policies.



## Achieve results

The status quo isn't a status we ever want. We focus on winning by exceeding expectations and getting better – everyone, every day.



## Our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion

We are proud to support a culture of diversity, equity and inclusion that brings out the best in all of us, treats every person equitably and allows individuals to feel safe being their true selves. We believe that our different backgrounds and viewpoints drive greater innovation and connectivity and benefit our associates, our customers, our vendors and our community.

In addition to creating a diverse and inclusive workplace, we recognize the economic imperative of ensuring that all businesses have access to opportunities to grow and thrive. Together with MassMutual, we are working to expand our base of suppliers, making intentional investments in diverse supplier development. These efforts help ensure that the companies we do business with reflect our own values, and that our spending aligns with our priorities.



# Cyber security and data privacy

## How we protect your information

At MassMutual Ascend, we take cyber security seriously and we'll continue to make investments that help protect our customers' information. Here are a few of the ways we work to keep your information protected:

### Restricting information access

Access to systems containing personal information is restricted to employees with a legitimate business need to access such information.

Service providers are contractually bound to implement and maintain our requirements for the protection of your personal information. They are also required to comply with legal and regulatory requirements related to data privacy and information security.

### Monitoring, evaluation and adjustment

We continuously monitor, review and adjust our cyber security policies and procedures based on changes in technology and sensitivity of information in order to ensure that we are operating in a manner designed to protect against reasonably foreseeable threats or hazards to the confidentiality, security or integrity of personal information.

### Ongoing cyber security awareness

Our cyber security awareness program includes focused communications, events and training intended to reinforce management's expectation that our associates comply with MassMutual Ascend's security standards.

# Our leadership

## Mark Muething, President and Chief Operating Officer

Mark is President and Chief Operating Officer of MassMutual Ascend. He has been with the company for over 30 years, serving as General Counsel and Executive Vice President before assuming the role of Chief Operating Officer.

Prior to joining MassMutual Ascend, Mark worked as an Associate and Partner for a Cincinnati-based law firm. Mark is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. He received his Juris Doctor (JD) from the University of Cincinnati College of Law.

## A proud subsidiary of MassMutual

In 2021, we were acquired by MassMutual, one of the largest life insurance companies in the U.S., founded in 1851. They were drawn to our company because of our continued growth as a leading annuity provider and long-standing reputation for providing superior customer service. We continue to operate as an independent subsidiary of MassMutual, which allows us to stay focused on serving the unique needs of our customers, while leveraging the investment capabilities, reputation and financial strength of MassMutual.



**“Our alignment with the strength and reputation of MassMutual enhances our ability to deliver compelling annuity solutions for our customers. It is our honor to take financial futures above and beyond at MassMutual Ascend. Thank you for trusting us to be your annuity provider.”**

**– Mark Muething**

<sup>1</sup>AM Best rating of “A++” (Superior) affirmed August 25, 2023. S&P rating of “A+” affirmed February 24, 2023.

<sup>2</sup>Reflects annuity premiums measured on the basis used to prepare statutory annual statements. Includes MassMutual Ascend Life Insurance Company and its wholly-owned subsidiary, Annuity Investors Life Insurance Company®.

<sup>3</sup>Data is as of December 31, 2022. Fixed income investments include bonds, cash, short-term investments and policy loans. Life insurance industry data sourced from S&P Global Market Intelligence - Life/Health, Version 2022.

<sup>4</sup>The guaranteed income benefit amount includes annuity benefit payments under immediate and deferred annuities, income benefit payments under guaranteed withdrawal benefit riders and contract withdrawals taken by owners after their rider benefit payments began.

For use with contract forms P1074514ID, P1470218ID, P1113516ID, P1471718ID, P1126818ID, P1135619ID, P1140119ID, P1146620ID, P1140219ID, P1110416ID, ICC20-P1144420NW and ICC20-P1144420NW-NoMVA, ICC20-P1144520NW and ICC20-P1144520NW-NoMVA, ICC20-P1474420NW and ICC20-P1474420NW-NoMVA, P1080010ID, P1457113ID, P1129918ID, P1134618ID, P1112916ID, P1470017ID, P1104414ID, P1138919ID, P1088011ID, P1088111ID, P1463016ID, P1459716ID, P1123117ID, P1123217ID, P1133518ID, P1086811ID, P1081610ID, P1822217ID, P1822317ID, P1825218ID. Contract form numbers may vary by state.

Past performance does not guarantee future results. All guarantees based on the claims-paying ability of MassMutual Ascend.

Products issued by MassMutual Ascend Life Insurance Company<sup>SM</sup> (Cincinnati, Ohio), a wholly owned subsidiary of Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company (MassMutual).

This content does not apply in the state of New York.

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**∴ MassMutual Ascend**