

Patricia Huang — Annuity Policy X-Ray

YOU	Patricia Huang, age 72
YOUR ANNUITY	Athene MYGA, opened March 2020
YOU DEPOSITED	\$185,000 (IRA rollover)
CURRENT VALUE	\$215,400
CURRENT RATE	1.85% (was 3.10% for the first 5 years)
SURRENDER CHARGE	2% (\$4,308) — drops to 0% in March 2027

Questions this X-Ray answers

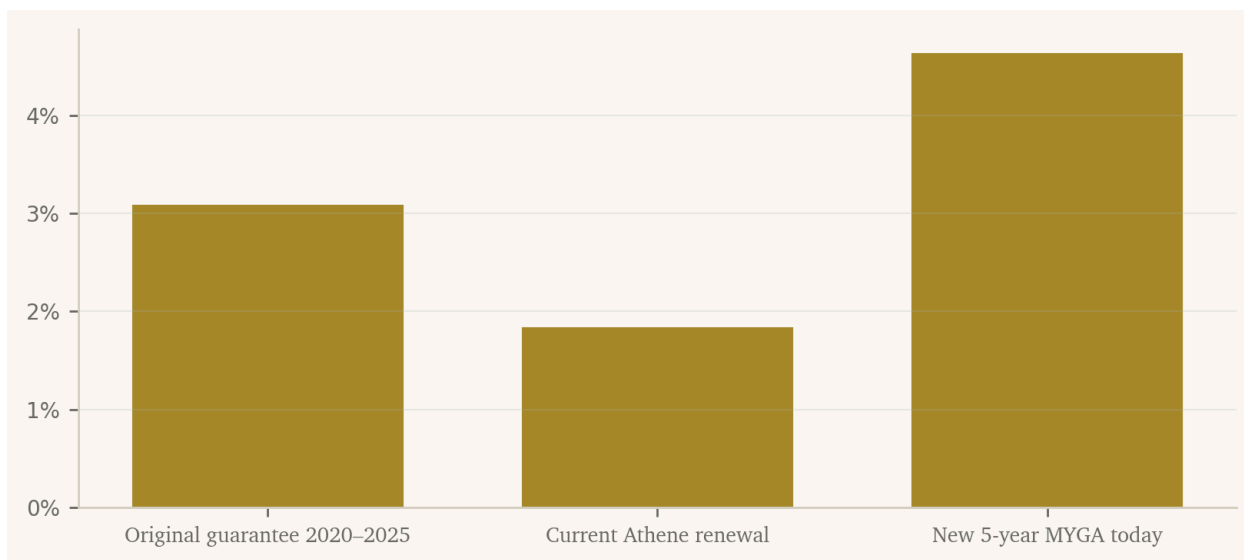
- ♦ Why did your rate drop from 3.10% to 1.85%?
- ♦ Can you move this money without getting penalized?
- ♦ What are your options?
- ♦ Which option fits your situation?

The reading

Your rate dropped from 3.10% to 1.85% when the five-year guarantee ended in March. That's the mechanism: Athene can reset the rate annually once the guarantee period is over, and the only floor they have to honor is the 1.00% minimum in the contract. At 1.85%, the annuity is earning about \$3,985 a year — a new five-year MYGA on the same money would earn roughly \$10,000. The surrender charge drops to zero in

March 2027, which sets your decision window. The options below show what to do with the money.

FIGURE 1 *What your money is earning vs. what it could earn*



1 What you have and how it works

You have a fixed annuity from Athene — essentially a savings account inside an IRA wrapper. When you rolled your 401k into this in 2020, Athene guaranteed you 3.10% interest for 5 years. That guarantee ended in March 2025.

After the guarantee ended, Athene dropped your rate to 1.85%. They're allowed to do this — the only rate they're required to pay is the 1.00% minimum in the contract. The 1.85% is what they chose to offer, and they can change it at any time.

Your account has grown from \$185,000 to \$215,400 over 6 years — that's \$30,400 in interest. Not bad for a safe investment. But at 1.85%, the annuity is now earning roughly \$3,985 per year. A new 5-year MYGA or CD would earn roughly \$10,000 per year on the same money.

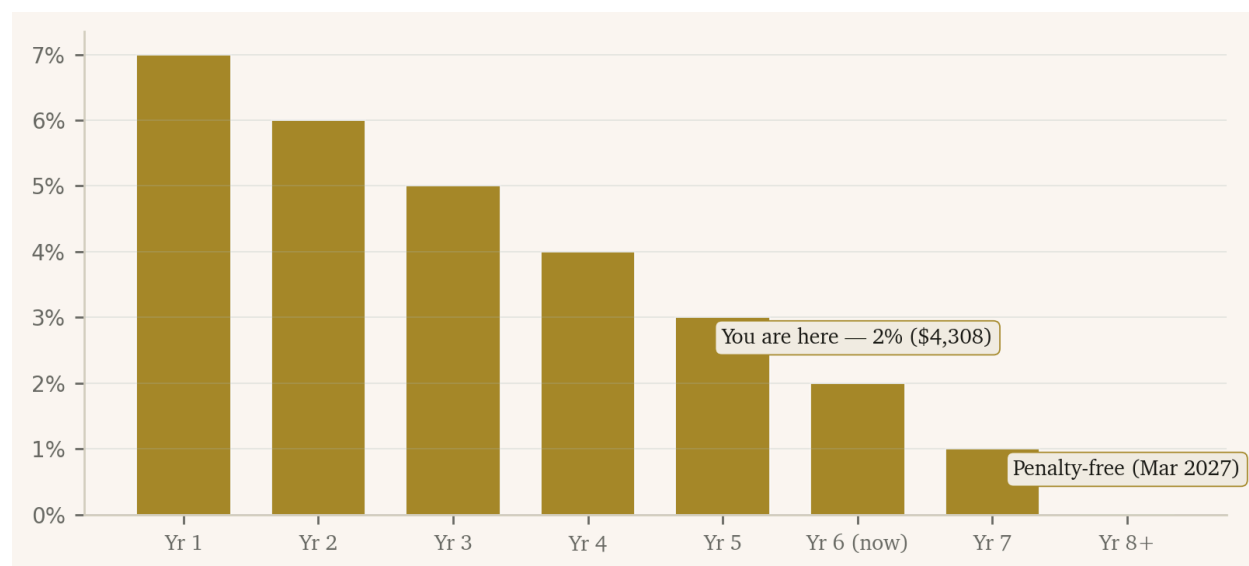
Your rate dropped because the 5-year guarantee expired. Athene renewed you at 1.85% — less than half the 4.5-4.7% you could earn on a new MYGA today.

2 Can you move this money?

Yes — but there's a small cost right now.

Your annuity has a 7-year surrender period. You're in year 6, which means there's a 2% charge (\$4,308) if you move the full amount today. In March 2027, the surrender period ends and the charge drops to zero.

FIGURE 2 *Surrender charge by policy year*



You can also withdraw up to 10% of the account value per year (\$21,540) with no surrender charge at all. This is a free withdrawal — Athene includes it in the contract.

Since this is IRA money, there are no tax consequences for moving it to another IRA. A direct transfer from one IRA to another is not a taxable event. You only pay tax when you actually take money out and spend it.

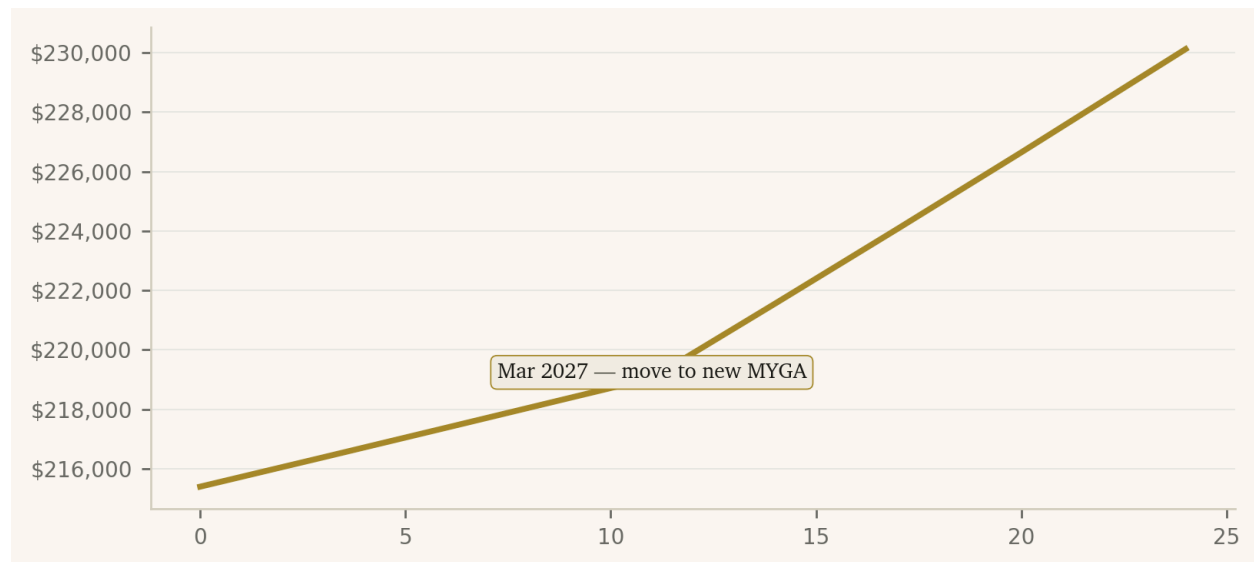
3 Option A — Wait until March 2027 and move the full amount

The basics

Wait 11 months for the surrender charge to drop to zero, then transfer the full \$215,400+ to a new MYGA paying 4.5-4.7%.

At 1.85% for 11 more months, you'd earn roughly \$3,660 in interest during the wait. Once you move to a new MYGA at 4.65%, you'd earn approximately \$10,200 per year — about \$6,200 more per year than you're earning now.

FIGURE 3 Option A — your account value over the next 24 months



Waiting 11 months saves you \$4,308 in surrender charges. The lower rate costs you roughly \$2,500 during the wait — a net savings of about \$1,800 by being patient.

When this fits

You don't need the money in the next 11 months and you're comfortable earning 1.85% for a little longer to avoid the penalty. This is the most straightforward path.

It stops making sense if rates drop significantly before March 2027 — you'd be waiting for a penalty to expire while the opportunity shrinks. Right now rates are high and expected to stay elevated, so the wait looks favorable.

How to do it

In February 2027, contact a new carrier (or GetSure can help) and open a new MYGA. Request a direct IRA transfer from Athene. Athene's annuity services line: 1-800-866-2563. The transfer takes 2-4 weeks. No tax consequences.

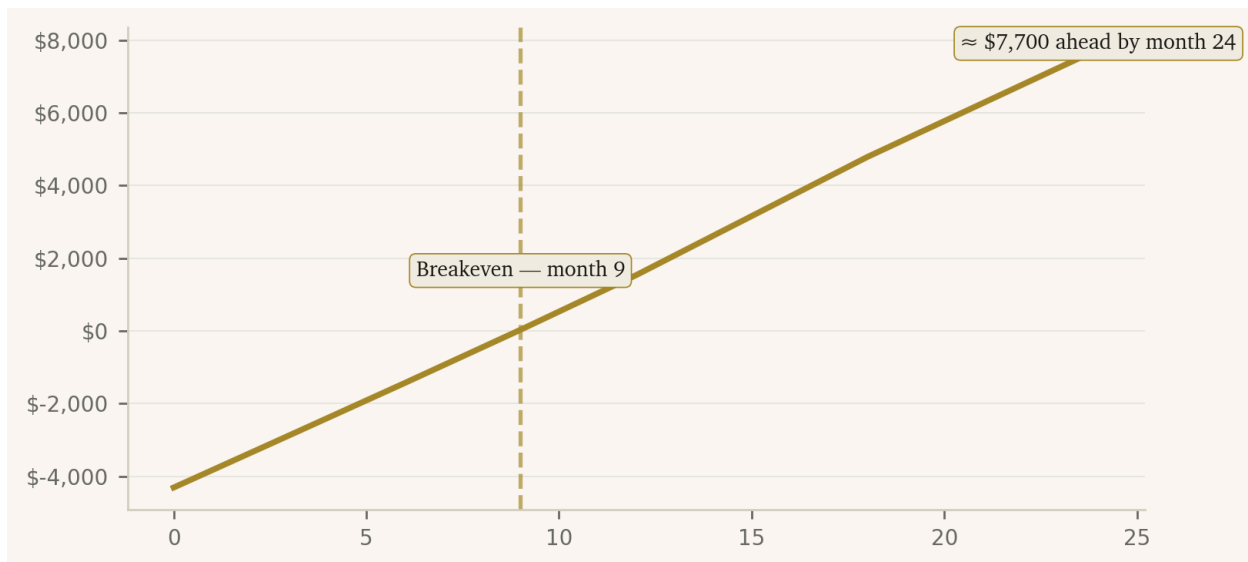
4 Option B — Move the money now and absorb the 2% charge

The basics

Transfer the full amount today. You'd receive \$211,100 (account value minus the 2% surrender charge of \$4,308) into a new MYGA.

At 4.65% on \$211,100, you'd earn roughly \$9,816 per year — compared to \$3,985 at 1.85% on \$215,400. That's \$5,831 more per year. The \$4,308 surrender charge pays for itself in about 9 months of higher interest.

FIGURE 4 *Option B — how moving now compares to staying at Athene*



The surrender charge costs \$4,308. The rate difference earns that back in about 9 months — every month after that is pure gain.

When this fits

You want to start earning the higher rate immediately and you're comfortable paying \$4,308 to do it. The math works in your favor within the first year.

It stops making sense if rates drop soon after you move — you'd have paid the penalty and locked in a rate that might not be much better. But at a 2.8% gap between your current rate and new MYGAs, a modest rate decline still leaves you ahead.

How to do it

Contact a new carrier and open a new MYGA. Request a direct IRA transfer from Athene. Athene will deduct the 2% surrender charge and send the remaining balance. Athene's annuity services line: 1-800-866-2563. No tax consequences.

5 Option C — Take the free 10% withdrawal and move just that

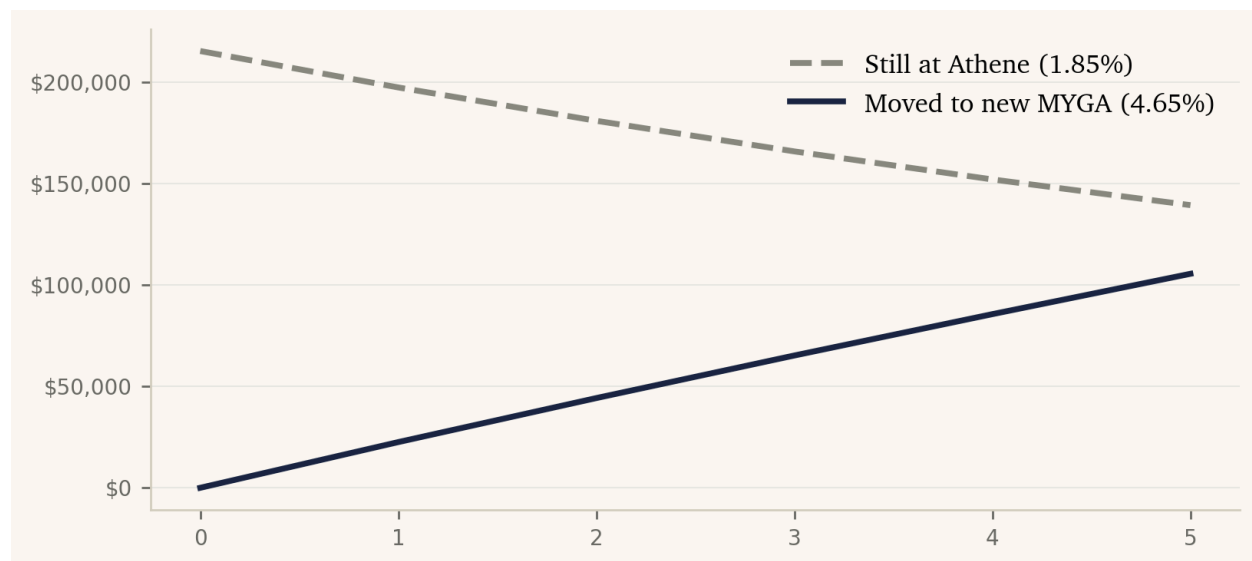
The basics

Withdraw \$21,540 (10% of account value) this year with no surrender charge, and move it to a higher-rate account — a new MYGA, a CD, or a high-yield savings account. Leave the remaining \$193,860 in the Athene annuity earning 1.85%.

You could repeat this each year, gradually moving money out of the low-rate annuity without ever paying a surrender charge. Or you could take the 10% now and move the rest in March 2027 when the surrender period ends.

The \$21,540 in a new MYGA at 4.65% would earn roughly \$1,002 per year instead of \$399 at 1.85% — a \$603 per year improvement on that portion alone.

FIGURE 5 Option C — moving 10% per year for 5 years



The free 10% withdrawal is a guaranteed right in your contract. You can use it every year without any penalty.

When this fits

You want to start earning more on part of the money without paying any surrender charges. Or you need some cash access for the travel, roof, or other expenses you mentioned — the 10% withdrawal gets \$21,540 into a more accessible account.

It stops making sense as a long-term strategy — moving 10% per year is slow. By the time you've moved the full amount, you've earned 1.85% on the remainder for years. Option A or B gets the money working faster.

How to do it

Call Athene at 1-800-866-2563. Request a partial withdrawal of 10% of account value under the free withdrawal provision. Specify that you want it transferred directly to another IRA (to avoid tax withholding). Since this is IRA money, you'll owe income tax on any amount you withdraw and spend — but a direct transfer to another IRA is not taxable.

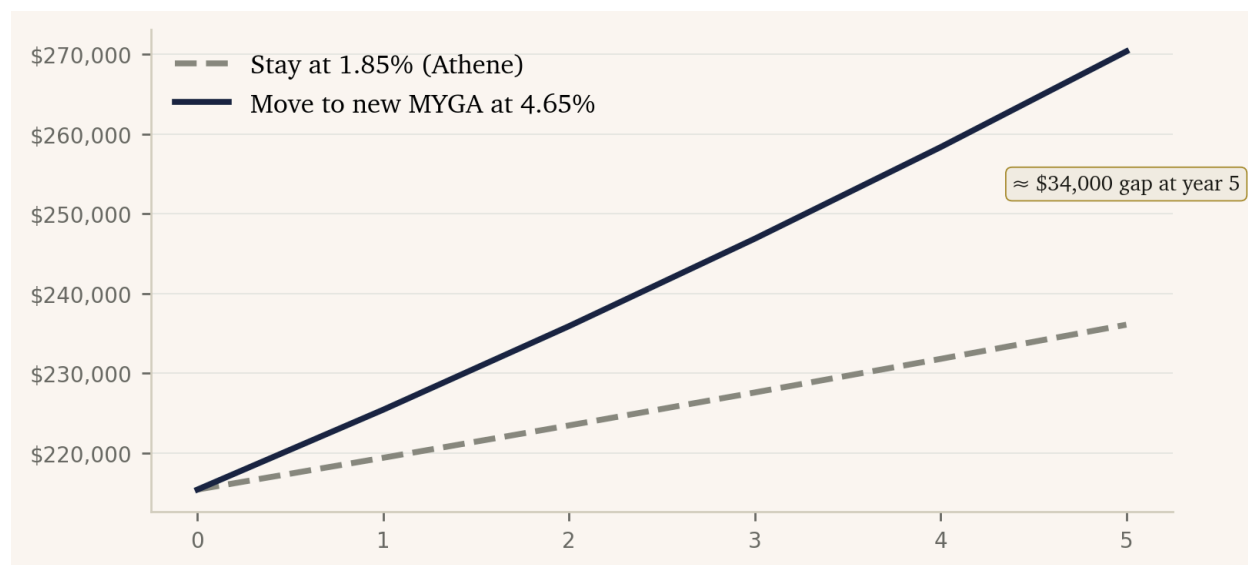
6 Option D — Leave it alone

The basics

Change nothing. The money stays at Athene earning 1.85%. The surrender period ends in March 2027, and the rate could go up or down at Athene's discretion after that.

At 1.85%, the annuity earns about \$3,985 per year. Over the next 5 years, that's roughly \$20,700 of growth. A new MYGA at 4.65% would grow to about \$270,400 over the same period — roughly \$34,000 more.

FIGURE 6 Account value over 5 years — stay vs. move



Leaving the money at 1.85% for 5 more years costs you roughly \$34,000 in lost growth compared to moving it to a new MYGA at current rates.

When this fits

Almost never at these rates. The only scenario: you believe interest rates are about to collapse and 1.85% will look good in hindsight. Or you genuinely don't want to deal with the paperwork.

It stops making sense the moment you compare 1.85% to what's available elsewhere. The gap is too large to ignore.

How to do it

Nothing. The money stays where it is. But understand that every year you wait costs roughly \$6,000 in interest you could be earning elsewhere.

7 Which option fits you?

IF THIS DESCRIBES YOU...	CONSIDER...
You can wait 11 months and want to avoid any penalties	Option A — wait for March 2027, then move everything
You want the higher rate now and don't mind a \$4,308 charge that pays for itself in 9 months	Option B — move now
You want some money accessible for travel or expenses without any penalties	Option C — take the free 10% withdrawal
You want the simplest path with no immediate action	Option A — but set a calendar reminder for February 2027

One thing to keep in mind: this is IRA money. When you eventually withdraw it and spend it, you'll owe income tax regardless of which annuity or account it's in. Moving it between IRAs doesn't trigger tax — only spending it does.

The rate environment is favorable right now. The difference between 1.85% and 4.5-4.7% is significant on \$215,000. Whether you move now or wait until March 2027, the important thing is to move it.

Hi Patricia — I hope this review gave you a clearer picture of where things stand and what your real options are. These decisions are personal, and there's no single right answer — just the one that fits your situation. If anything in here raised questions, or if you'd like to talk through the trade-offs, I'm always happy to get on a call. You can reach me at rikin@getsure.org or (925) 391-8282.

Warm regards,

Rikin Shah

Co-Founder, GetSure Insurance Agency