# MONEY PROS

## **Business Strategies to Prepare for the Future**

### What business entity are you?

- Sole Proprietorship
  - Single owner
- Partnership
  - o Ownership between two or more persons
- Limited Liability Company (LLC)
  - Separation of person and business
  - Protects personal assets
- S-Corporation
  - Taxes flow to the shareholders
  - Does not pay its own federal income tax
- C-Corporation
  - Double taxation: Entity and shareholders pay taxes separately

### **Retirement Savings Options**

- If you're an owner/operator:
  - Traditional/Roth IRA
  - o SEP IRA
  - o Solo 401(k)
- If you have employees:
  - o 401(k)
  - o Simple IRA

(Note that these aren't the only options available, but these are the most common.)

### **How to Pay Yourself:**

- <u>Salary</u>
  - o Provides consistent personal income, but relies on company profits
- Owner's Draw
  - Take excess funds as needed
- <u>Dividends (for corporations)</u>
  - o Taxed at a lower rate compared to regular income
- Bonuses
- Profit Distributions (for partnerships & LLCs)
  - Distributes profits based on ownership percentages

#### **Organize & Track Your Finances**

- Separate personal financial activity from your business' financial activity
- Learn how it works, then hire someone to do it for you. Focus on your business!
  - o Some software recommendations:
    - Intuit Quickbooks
    - Xero
    - Wave Accounting (Free)