

# **NORTHSTAR VARIABLE ANNUITY**

## **AN INDIVIDUAL DEFERRED VARIABLE/FIXED ANNUITY CONTRACT**

issued by

**ReliaStar Life Insurance Company**

and its

**Northstar Variable Account**

**Supplement Dated May 11, 2020**

This supplement updates and amends certain information contained in your prospectus dated August 8, 1997, and subsequent supplements thereto. Please read it carefully and keep it with your prospectus for future reference. Capitalized terms not defined in this supplement shall have the meaning given to them in your prospectus.

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## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE INTERNET AVAILABILITY OF FUND SHAREHOLDER REPORTS**

Beginning on January 1, 2021, as permitted by regulations adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission, paper copies of the shareholder reports for the Funds available through your Contract will no longer be sent by mail, unless you specifically request paper copies of the reports from the Company. Instead, the reports will be made available on a website, and you will be notified by mail each time a report is posted and provided with a website link to access the report.

If you already elected to receive shareholder reports electronically, you will not be affected by this change and you need not take any action. If available, you may elect to receive shareholder reports and other communications from the Company electronically by contacting Customer Service.

You may elect to receive all future reports in paper free of charge. You can inform the Company that you wish to continue receiving paper copies of your shareholder reports by calling 1-800-283-3427. Your election to receive reports in paper will apply to all Funds available under your Contract.

## **INFORMATION ABOUT THE FUNDS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE THROUGH THE NORTHSTAR VARIABLE ACCOUNT**

The following chart lists the Funds that are currently available for investment through the Northstar Variable Account (the "Variable Account"), along with each Fund's investment adviser/subadviser and investment objective. More detailed information about these Funds can be found in the current prospectus and Statement of Additional Information for each Fund. If you received a summary prospectus for any of the Funds available through your Contract, you may obtain a full prospectus and other Fund information free of charge by either accessing the internet address, calling the telephone number or sending an email request to the email address shown on the front of the Fund's summary prospectus.

**There is no assurance that the stated investment objectives of any of the Funds will be achieved. Shares of the Funds will rise and fall in value and you could lose money by allocating Contract Value to the Sub-Accounts that invest in the Funds. Shares of the Funds are not bank deposits and are not guaranteed, endorsed or insured by any financial institution, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other government agency.**

<b>Fund Name</b>	<b>Investment Objective(s)</b>
<b>Investment Adviser/Subadviser</b> <b>Voya Balanced Portfolio (Class I)</b>  <b>Investment Adviser:</b> Voya Investments, LLC  <b>Subadviser:</b> Voya Investment Management Co. LLC	Seeks total return consisting of capital appreciation (both realized and unrealized) and current income; the secondary investment objective is long-term capital appreciation.
<b>Voya High Dividend Low Volatility Portfolio (Class I)*, **</b>  <b>Investment Adviser:</b> Voya Investments, LLC  <b>Subadviser:</b> Voya Investment Management Co. LLC	Seeks long-term capital growth and current income.
<b>Voya Growth and Income Portfolio (Class I)</b>  <b>Investment Adviser:</b> Voya Investments, LLC  <b>Subadviser:</b> Voya Investment Management Co. LLC	Seeks to maximize total return through investments in a diversified portfolio of common stock and securities convertible into common stocks. It is anticipated that capital appreciation and investment income will both be major factors in achieving total return.
<b>Voya High Yield Portfolio (Class I)</b>  <b>Investment Adviser:</b> Voya Investments, LLC  <b>Subadviser:</b> Voya Investment Management Co. LLC	Seeks to provide investors with a high level of current income and total return.
<b>Voya International Index Portfolio (Class S)</b>  <b>Investment Adviser:</b> Voya Investments, LLC  <b>Subadviser:</b> Voya Investment Management Co. LLC	Seeks investment results (before fees and expenses) that correspond to the total return (which includes capital appreciation and income) of a widely accepted international index.
<b>Voya SmallCap Opportunities Portfolio (Class I)</b>  <b>Investment Adviser:</b> Voya Investments, LLC  <b>Subadviser:</b> Voya Investment Management Co. LLC	Seeks long-term capital appreciation.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT FUNDS CLOSED TO NEW INVESTMENT

The Sub-Accounts that invest in the following Funds are closed to new investment:

<b>Fund Name</b>	<b>Investment Objective(s)</b>
<b>Investment Adviser/Subadviser</b> <b>Fidelity® VIP Index 500 Portfolio (Initial Class)</b>  <b>Investment Adviser:</b> Fidelity Management & Research Company LLC is the fund's manager. Goede Capital Management, LLC serves as subadviser for the fund.	Seeks investment results that correspond to the total return of common stocks publicly traded in the United States, as represented by the S&P 500® Index.

Fund Name	Investment Objective(s)
Voya MidCap Opportunities Portfolio (Class I)	Seeks long-term capital appreciation.

**Investment Adviser:** Voya Investments, LLC

**Subadviser:** Voya Investment Management Co. LLC

Contract Owners who have Contract Value allocated to one or more of the Sub-Accounts that correspond to these Funds may leave their Contract Value in those Sub-Accounts, but future allocations and transfers into them are prohibited. If your most recent purchase payment allocation instructions includes a Sub-Account that corresponds to one of these Funds, payment received that would have been allocated to a Sub-Account corresponding to one of these Funds may be automatically allocated among the other available Sub-Accounts according to your most recent allocation instructions. If your most recent allocation instructions do not include any available Funds, you must provide us with alternative allocation instructions or the purchase payment will be returned to you. You may give us alternative allocation instructions by contacting Customer Service at P.O. Box 5050, Minot, ND 58702-5050, 1-877-884-5050. **See the “Transfers” section beginning on page 22 of your Contract prospectus for information about making Fund allocation changes.**

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TAX LAW CHANGES UNDER THE SECURE ACT

On December 31, 2019, the Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act of 2019 (the “SECURE Act”) amended prior tax law affecting individual retirement annuities (“IRAs”) and certain qualified retirement plans. The following is a summary of certain provisions in the SECURE Act. **This summary is not intended to provide tax or legal advice and you should consult with a tax and/or legal adviser to determine how the SECURE Act affects you and your particular situation.**

### **Increase in Required Minimum Distribution (“RMD”) Beginning Date**

For distributions required to be made after December 31, 2019, the SECURE Act increases the RMD age to age 72 (age 70½ if born before July 1, 1949).

### **Distributions for Birth or Adoption of a Child**

Except in limited circumstances, the Tax Code imposes a 10% additional tax on the taxable portion of any distribution from an IRA or qualified retirement plan before age 59½. The SECURE Act provides an additional exception from this 10% additional tax for qualified birth or adoption distributions.

### **Repeal of Maximum Age for Contributions to a Traditional IRA**

The SECURE Act eliminated the maximum age after which contributions to a traditional IRA were not allowed. Consequently, individuals who have attained age 70½ will no longer be prohibited from making non-rollover contributions to traditional IRAs.

### **Required Distributions Upon Death**

Upon your death, any remaining interest in an IRA or qualified retirement plan must be distributed in accordance with federal income tax requirements under Section 401(a)(9) of the Tax Code. The death benefit provisions of your Contract will be interpreted to comply with those requirements. The SECURE Act amended the post-death distribution requirements that are generally applicable with respect to deaths occurring after 2019. The post-death distribution requirements under prior law continue to apply in certain circumstances.

**Prior Law.** Under prior law, if you die prior to the required beginning date, the remaining interest must be distributed (1) within five years after the death (the “5-year rule”); or (2) over the life of the designated beneficiary, or over a period not extending beyond the life expectancy of the designated beneficiary, provided that such distributions commence within one year after death (the “lifetime payout rule”). If you die on or after the required beginning date (including after the date distributions have commenced in the form of an annuity), the remaining interest must be distributed at least as rapidly as under the method of distribution being used as of the date of death (the “at-least-as-rapidly rule”).

**The New Law.** Under the new law, if you die after 2019, and you have a designated beneficiary, any remaining interest must be distributed within ten years after your death, unless the designated beneficiary is an eligible designated beneficiary (“EDB”) or some other exception applies. A designated beneficiary is any individual designated as a beneficiary by you, the IRA owner or employee. An EDB is any designated beneficiary who is (1) your surviving spouse; (2) your minor child; (3) disabled; (4) chronically ill; or (5) an individual not more than ten years younger than you. An individual’s status as an EDB is determined on the date of your death.

This ten-year post-death distribution period applies regardless of whether you die before your required beginning date or you die on or after that date (including after distributions have commenced in the form of an annuity). However, if the beneficiary is an EDB and the EDB dies before the entire interest is distributed under this ten-year rule, the remaining interest must be distributed within ten years after the EDB’s death (i.e., a new ten-year distribution period begins).

Instead of taking distributions under the new ten-year rule, an EDB can stretch distributions over life, or over a period not extending beyond life expectancy, provided that such distributions commence within one year of your death, subject to certain special rules. In particular, if the EDB dies before the remaining interest is distributed under this stretch rule, the remaining interest must be distributed within ten years after the EDB’s death (regardless of whether the remaining distribution period under the stretch rule was more or less than ten years). In addition, if your minor child is an EDB, the child will cease to be an EDB on the date the child reaches the age of majority, and any remaining interest must be distributed within ten years after that date (regardless of whether the remaining distribution period under the stretch rule was more or less than ten years).

If your beneficiary is not an individual, such as a charity, your estate, or in some cases a trust, any remaining interest after your death generally must be distributed under prior law in accordance with the 5-year rule or the at-least-as-rapidly rule, as applicable (but not the lifetime payout rule). However, if your beneficiary is a trust and all the beneficiaries of the trust are individuals, the new law may apply pursuant to special rules that treat the beneficiaries of the trust as designated beneficiaries, including special rules allowing a beneficiary of a trust who is disabled or chronically ill to stretch the distribution of their interest over their life or life expectancy in some cases. **You should consult a professional tax adviser about the federal income tax consequences of your beneficiary designations, particularly if a trust is involved.**

More generally, the new law applies if you die after 2019, subject to several exceptions. In particular, if your plan is maintained pursuant to one or more collective bargaining agreements, the new law applies to your interest in that plan if you die after 2021 (unless the collective bargaining agreements terminate earlier).

In addition, the new post-death distribution requirements generally do not apply if the IRA owner or employee died prior to January 1, 2020. However, if the designated beneficiary of the deceased IRA owner or employee dies after January 1, 2020, any remaining interest must be distributed within ten years of the designated beneficiary’s death. Hence, this ten-year rule generally will apply to a contract issued prior to 2020 which continues to be held by a designated beneficiary of an IRA or employee who died prior to 2020.

It is important to note that under prior law, annuity payments that commenced under a method that satisfied the distribution requirements while the IRA owner or employee was alive could continue to be made under that method after the death of the IRA owner or employee. Under the new law, however, if you commence taking distributions in the form of an annuity that can continue after your death, such as in the form of a joint and survivor annuity or an annuity with a guaranteed period of more than ten years, any distributions after your death that are scheduled to be made beyond the applicable distribution period imposed under the new law might need to be accelerated at the end of that period (or otherwise modified after your death if permitted under federal tax law and by us) in order to comply with the new post-death distribution requirements.

**Certain transition rules may apply. Please consult your tax adviser.**

**Start Dates for Spousal Beneficiaries.** Under the new law, as under prior law, if your beneficiary is your spouse, your surviving spouse can delay the application of the post-death distribution requirements until after your surviving spouse's death by transferring the remaining interest tax-free to your surviving spouse's own IRA, or by treating your IRA as your surviving spouse's own IRA.

The post-death distribution requirements are complex and unclear in numerous respects. The Internal Revenue Service and U.S. Department of the Treasury have issued very little guidance on the new law. In addition, the manner in which these requirements will apply will depend on your particular facts and circumstances. **You should consult a professional tax adviser for tax advice as to your particular situation.**

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE TEMPORARY RULES UNDER THE CARES ACT**

On March 27, 2020, Congress passed and the President signed into law the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (the "CARES Act"). Among other provisions, the CARES Act includes temporary relief from certain of the tax rules applicable to IRAs and qualified plans. The scope and availability of this temporary relief may vary depending on a number of factors, including (1) the type of IRA or plan with which the Contract is used; (2) whether a plan sponsor implements a particular type of relief; (3) your specific circumstances; and (4) future guidance issued by the Internal Revenue Service and the Department of Labor. **You should consult with a tax and/or legal adviser to determine if relief is available to you before taking or failing to take any actions involving the IRA or other qualified contract.**

**Required Minimum Distributions.** The CARES Act waives the requirement to take minimum distributions from IRA and defined contribution plans in 2020. The waiver applies to any minimum distribution due from such an arrangement in 2020, including minimum distributions with respect to the 2019 tax year that are due in 2020.

The relief applies both to lifetime and post-death minimum distributions due in 2020. In that regard, the CARES Act also provides that if the post-death five-year rule described above under "**Required Distributions upon Death**" applies, the five-year period is determined without regard to calendar year 2020. It is unclear whether this special exception extends to the ten-year period also described above under that same heading.

**Distributions.** The CARES Act provides relief for coronavirus-related distributions made from an "eligible retirement plan" (defined below) to a "qualified individual" (defined below). The relief:

- Permits in-service distributions, even if such amounts are not otherwise distributable from the plan under Tax Code sections 401(k), 403(b), or 457;
- Provides an exception to the 10% Additional Tax under Tax Code section 72(t);
- Exempts the distribution from the mandatory 20% withholding applicable to eligible rollover distributions;
- Permits an IRA owner or employee to include income attributable to the distribution over the three-year period beginning with the year the distribution would otherwise be taxable unless the taxpayer elects out; and
- Permits recontribution of the distribution to an IRA or eligible retirement plan within three years, in which case the recontribution is generally treated as a direct trustee to trustee transfer within 60 days of the distribution.

The distribution must come from an "eligible retirement plan" within the meaning of Tax Code section 402(c)(8)(B), *i.e.*, an IRA, 401(a) plan, 403(a) plan, 403(b) plan, or governmental 457(b) plan, including Roth arrangements. The relief is limited to aggregate distributions of \$100,000. The relief applies to such distributions made at any time during the 2020 calendar year.

**Individuals Eligible for Withdrawal and Loan Relief.** Only a “qualified individual” is eligible for the withdrawal and loan relief provided under the CARES Act. A “qualified individual” is an individual in one of the following categories:

- The individual is diagnosed with the virus SARS-CoV-2 or with coronavirus disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) by a test approved by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;
- The individual’s spouse or dependent is diagnosed with such virus or disease; or
- The individual experiences adverse financial consequences as a result of being quarantined, being furloughed or laid off or having work hours reduced due to such virus or disease, being unable to work due to lack of child care due to such virus or disease, closing or reducing hours of a business owned or operated by the individual due to such virus or disease, or other factors as determined by Internal Revenue Service.

The CARES Act provides that the administrator of an eligible retirement plan may rely on an employee’s certification that the employee is a qualified individual as defined above.

While the CARES Act provides for special federal tax treatment for coronavirus-related distributions from IRAs and most types of qualified retirement plans, this favorable tax treatment may not apply for state and local tax purposes. **Consequently, you should consult a professional tax adviser for tax advice as to your particular situation.**

## **MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE**

More information about the Funds available through your Contract, including information about the risks associated with investing in them, can be found in the current prospectus and Statement of Additional Information for each Fund. You may obtain these documents by contacting:

Customer Service  
P.O. Box 5050  
Minot, ND 58702-5050  
1-877-884-5050

If you received a summary prospectus for any of the Funds available through your Contract, you may obtain a full prospectus and other Fund information free of charge by either accessing the internet address, calling the telephone number or sending an email request to the email address shown on the front of the Fund’s summary prospectus.

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\* This Fund employs a managed volatility strategy. A managed volatility strategy is a strategy that is intended to reduce a Fund’s overall volatility and downside risk and, thereby, help us manage the risks associated with providing certain guarantees under the Contract. During rising markets, the hedging strategies employed to manage volatility could result in your Variable Account Value rising less than would have been the case if you had been invested in a Fund with substantially similar investment objectives, policies and strategies that does not utilize a volatility management strategy. In addition, the cost of these hedging strategies may have a negative impact on investment performance. On the other hand, investing in Funds with a managed volatility strategy may be helpful in a declining market with higher market volatility because the hedging strategy will reduce your equity exposure in such circumstances. In such cases, your variable account value may decline less than would have been the case if you had not invested in Funds with a managed volatility strategy. There is no guarantee that a managed volatility strategy can achieve or maintain the Fund’s optimal risk targets, and the Fund may not perform as expected.

\*\* Prior to May 1, 2020, this fund was known as the Voya Global Equity Portfolio.