

# >>Economic Security

## How Should We Take Charge of Our Future?

Now that you've had the chance to participate in this forum, we'd like to know what you think. Your opinions, along with those of others who participated in these forums, will be reflected in a summary report that will be available to all citizens, including those who took part in these forums, as well as officeholders and members of the news media.

1. On the 0-to-10 scale below, rate the importance of each of the following items.

How important do you think it is ... (0 = Not At All Important) (10 = Extremely Important)	Please put a number from 0 to 10 in each row.
a) ... for people to draw up and stick to a household budget?	
b) ... for businesses to provide more child care for working parents?	
c) ... for financial institutions that make risky investments to be more strictly regulated?	
d) ... to raise the minimum wage?	
e) ... to make more federally backed loan money available for small business expansion?	
f) ... for people to shop at local businesses, like restaurants and hardware stores, rather than at national chain store counterparts?	
g) ... for government to sponsor "Buy American" programs to help keep our dollars in the United States?	
h) ... to increase government funding to community colleges and vocational/technical schools?	
i) ... for government to break up large Wall Street banks?	

2. Do you agree or disagree with the statements below?	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Sure
a. Government should increase the minimum wage, EVEN IF businesses might hire fewer workers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. State and local government should relax selected consumer protection regulations, EVEN IF more people could be hurt by unscrupulous business practices.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Government should raise the Social Security retirement age, EVEN IF older Americans will have to work longer.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Businesses should renegotiate pension funds with retirees, EVEN IF this means seniors have less money for retirement.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Businesses should provide child care for low-paid workers, EVEN IF that raised the price of the goods and services we buy.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Government should make low-interest loans to small businesses, EVEN IF many of them turn out to be poor investments.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

# >> QUESTIONNAIRE

3. Please circle one answer for the following question:

Which statement below most closely reflects your view about your preparation for a secure economic future?

- a. I feel that things can continue as they are; I am well prepared for my future economic security.
- b. I feel that I need to make MINOR changes to ensure my future economic security.
- c. I feel I need to make MAJOR changes to ensure my future economic security.

4. Do you agree or disagree with the statements below?
- |   | Strongly Agree           | Somewhat Agree           | Somewhat Disagree        | Strongly Disagree        | Not Sure                 |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. The economy is too complex for me to understand.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Given the global forces that influence the U.S. economy, there is little I can do to improve my economic future. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

5. Are you thinking differently about this issue now that you have participated in the forum?  Yes  No

If yes, how? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. In your forum, did you talk about aspects of the issues you hadn't considered before?  Yes  No

If yes, please explain. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. What, if anything, might citizens in your community do differently as a result of this forum?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Not including this forum, how many National Issues Forums have you attended?

1-3       4-6       7 or more       Not sure

9. Are you male or female?  Male  Female

10. Are you currently

Employed full-time (35 or more hours/week)       Employed part-time       Unemployed and looking for work  
 Unemployed and NOT looking for work       Retired       Homemaker       Full-time student

11. Are you:  African American       Asian American       Hispanic or Latino       Native American  
 White/Caucasian       Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

12. Where do you live?  Own home       Renting a house       Apartment       Living with family or friends

13. In what state do you live? \_\_\_\_\_

14. What is your ZIP code? \_\_\_\_\_

15. Which of the following live in the same house/apartment with you? Check all that apply.

Children under 18       Adult children (18 or over)       Parent(s)       Other family members

**Please give this form to the forum leader, or mail it to National Issues Forums Institute, 100 Commons Road, Dayton, Ohio 45459-2777.**