

>> Social Security: How Can We Afford It?

Now that you've had a chance to participate in a forum on this issue, we'd like to know what you think. Your opinions, along with those of thousands 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 the forums, as well as officeholders, members of the news media, and others in your community.

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Sure
1. Do you agree or disagree with the statements below?					
a. We must ensure that the Social Security program continues to provide a safety net for the nation's elderly.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. People would reap a much better return on their investments if they controlled their own retirement accounts.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Social Security may once have made good economic sense, but we simply can't afford it any more.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. The program strayed too far from its original intent when it was expanded to include benefits for people with disabilities.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. The government has taken far too much responsibility for the welfare of its retired citizens.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. The Social Security program should be overhauled to take into account the fact that Americans are living much longer healthier lives today.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Do you favor or oppose each of these actions?	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Not Sure
a. We should raise payroll taxes to keep the system solvent, EVEN IF this would place a heavier burden on today's workers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. We should redesign the Social Security system to provide more benefits for older retirees who need them and less for the well-to-do, EVEN IF that undermines near-universal support for the system.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. We should forbid the government to borrow from the Social Security Trust Fund, EVEN IF that makes it harder to balance the federal budget.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Employers should do more to retain and hire older workers, EVEN IF that makes it harder for younger workers to find good jobs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(Question 2 continued on next page.)

>> QUESTIONNAIRE

(Question 2 continued from previous page.)

Strongly Favor Somewhat Favor Somewhat Oppose Strongly Oppose Not Sure

- e. We should raise the age at which workers become eligible for Social Security to 70, EVEN IF this becomes a hardship for people who do hard physical labor. Strongly Favor Somewhat Favor Somewhat Oppose Strongly Oppose Not Sure
- f. We should phase out Social Security and replace it with a privatized system of retirement investment and savings, EVEN IF many people who fail to save for their retirement will be left in poverty at the end of their working lives. Strongly Favor Somewhat Favor Somewhat Oppose Strongly Oppose Not Sure
- g. The government should provide all children with \$3,000 savings accounts, which would grow to substantial sums when accessed at retirement, EVEN IF such a plan adds to the federal debt in the short run. Strongly Favor Somewhat Favor Somewhat Oppose Strongly Oppose Not Sure
- h. We should return the program to its original intent, which was to benefit the elderly, EVEN IF this means cutting off funds to many younger, disabled Americans who now depend on Social Security. Strongly Favor Somewhat Favor Somewhat Oppose Strongly Oppose Not Sure
- i. Community agencies and families should be asked to do more to help needy retirees, EVEN IF this provides only hit-or-miss protection for the elderly. Strongly Favor Somewhat Favor Somewhat Oppose Strongly Oppose Not Sure

3. Are you thinking differently about this issue now that you have participated in the forum? Yes No
 If yes, how? _____

4. In your forum, did you talk about aspects of the issues you hadn't considered before? Yes No
 If yes, please explain. _____

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

6. Not including this forum, how many National Issues Forums have you attended?
 1-3 4-6 7 or more Not sure

7. Are you male or female? Male Female

8. How old are you?
 17 or younger 18-30 31-45 46-64 65 or older

9. Are you: African American Asian American Hispanic or Latino Native American
 White/Caucasian Other (please specify) _____

10. Where do you live? Rural Small Town Large City Suburban

11. What is your ZIP code? _____

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