



CLINTON, TRUMP & SOCIAL SECURITY: WHERE DO THE CANDIDATES STAND?

Open the newspaper, turn on the TV or go online, there is no escaping the rhetoric and controversy of the 2016 presidential election. This November, Americans will head to the polls to elect the next President of the United States and by far, the two most covered—and highly divisive—candidates are Hillary Clinton (D) and Donald J. Trump (R). Each have their own agenda should they get elected to the White House, and surely one of the top questions on the minds of over 78 million Baby Boomers¹ at or near retirement is “What will happen to Social Security?”

For generations of Americans, Social Security has been the foundation for a secure retirement and the primary source of income for many retirees. Yet, there has been speculation for years that the program, which so many have been paying into over a lifetime of work, has been given a death sentence in the decades to come.

Let’s explore how Trump and Clinton’s platforms could impact the program in the near term. Here’s a look at each candidate’s plans for Social Security should they be elected:

Hillary Clinton

According to Hillary Clinton’s campaign website, www.hillaryclinton.com, she has been quoted saying, “I won’t cut Social Security ... I’ll defend it, and I’ll expand it.” If elected, here is what Clinton promises for the system:

- Fight attempts to gamble senior retirement security on the stock market through privatization
- Oppose reducing annual cost-of-living adjustments
- Contest recommendations to raise the retirement age
- Oppose benefit cuts or tax increases
- Expand benefits for those she claims are “treated unfairly by the current system” including widows and those who missed years in the workforce to care for children, ailing family members or aging parents
- Ask high-income earning Americans to contribute more by taxing some of their income above the current cap and income that is not currently taken into account by the Social Security system

¹ <http://www.thefiscaltimes.com/2015/09/25/Where-Will-78-Million-Boomers-Retire-Facing-Challenge-Aging-Place>

Donald J. Trump

With regard to the Social Security program, AARP quotes Donald Trump as saying, “The key to preserving Social Security is to have an economy that is robust and growing.”²

If elected, here is what Trump proposes for the system - as part of his “pro-growth” agenda:

- Develop a tax-reform plan including eliminating the alternative minimum and death taxes as well as streamlining personal income tax by removing carve-outs for special interests and reducing the number of brackets
- Renegotiate trade deals and impose budget discipline to stop reckless behavior that he feels continues to increase America’s debt
- Trump states, “If we are able to sustain growth rates in GDP that we had as a result of the Kennedy and Reagan tax reforms, we will be able to secure Social Security for the future”
- Attack fraud, waste and abuse in the government and reduce the size of the federal workforce

If you have questions or concerns about Social Security income as part of your overall retirement savings plan, please contact the office.

² <http://takeastand.aarp.org/candidate/donald-trump/>

ARE YOU REALLY READY TO RETIRE? FOUR WAYS TO TELL

Think it’s time to call it a day at the office ... forever? For many older working Americans, the age at which they retire is still up in the air. There are a myriad of factors that determine whether you are ready to retire—mainly if you are financially, emotionally and socially prepared to say goodbye to corporate America and a regular paycheck. Take a look at this checklist to determine if you are really ready to retire:

- **You no longer enjoy work.** Going into the office used to be a rewarding experience. Maybe you appreciated feeling challenged, being well paid and/or enjoyed the social aspect of work. Now, things feel a bit humdrum. You are no longer challenged and feel less passionate about what you do. Often times this is a sign that you are emotionally ready to retire. If this pairs with your prepared retirement budget, you may be ready to say ‘hasta la vista’ to work.
- **You can afford to retire.** A huge factor in determining whether you are ready to retire is where you are at financially. For most, this requires having thoroughly prepared a retirement budget and saved an adequate amount of money to fund your bills and lifestyle needs in the future. This also means you have a strategy in place to turn that savings into future income. We can assist you with a retirement savings withdrawal strategy to ensure your money is there for the long run.

- **You have a plan for taking Social Security benefits.** A majority of seniors are taking Social Security benefits before their full retirement age* and missing a decent amount of income they could claim by delaying taking benefits. Each year you delay taking benefits between age 62 and 70 could boost your overall income amount by about seven to eight percent.
- **You welcome the retirement lifestyle.** You're planning up until this point has mainly been financial, but now you are ready to welcome the retirement lifestyle. As you prepare for this next stage, consider what brings you fulfillment and meaning and what your day-to-day will look like once you retire.

The best plan is to have a plan before leaving the workforce. Please contact the office to schedule an appointment if you'd like to discuss your retirement plans.

* Use this [calculator](#) to determine your retirement age.

These are the views of Cassie Dono, a freelance financial writer and news commentator, not the named Representative or the Broker/Dealer, and should not be construed as investment advice or a recommendation. Neither the named Representative nor Broker/Dealer gives tax or legal advice. All information is believed to be from reliable sources; however, we make no representation as to its completeness or accuracy. The publisher is not engaged in rendering legal, accounting or other professional services. If expert assistance is needed in these areas, the reader is advised to engage the services of a competent professional. Please consult your Financial Advisor prior to making any investment decisions.

