

Generation Opportunity: Social Security Survey
 N=700 Registered Voters Nationwide
 August 10-12, 2016

SELECT QUESTIONS FOR RELEASE

MOST IMPORTANT PRIORITIES

What are the three most important issues for the next President and Congress of the United States to address? (RANDOMIZED)

<u>ALL</u>	<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-44</u>	<u>45-64</u>	<u>65+</u>	
43%	31%	46%	44%	47%	National Debt and Spending
42%	34%	38%	51%	38%	Healthcare
36%	29%	25%	41%	45%	Immigration
36%	19%	30%	41%	44%	National Defense and Foreign Affairs
30%	14%	19%	35%	44%	Social Security
24%	19%	27%	25%	21%	Taxes
23%	34%	27%	17%	20%	Gun Safety and Rights
19%	33%	28%	13%	7%	Education
16%	25%	20%	8%	18%	Environment
10%	18%	17%	6%	3%	Criminal Justice
6%	13%	7%	4%	3%	Abortion
6%	7%	9%	6%	3%	Energy and Gas Prices
4%	10%	5%	3%	2%	Free Speech
4%	12%	6%	1%	2%	Same-Sex Marriage
4%	9%	3%	5%	1%	Other

As you may know, the national debt is over \$19 trillion and counting. Which of the following do you think contributes the **most** to the national debt? (ROTATED)

<u>ALL</u>	<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-44</u>	<u>45-64</u>	<u>65+</u>	
82%	85%	82%	81%	82%	Too much money is spent
18%	15%	19%	19%	18%	Not enough revenue/taxes is taken in

As you may know, the national debt is over \$19 trillion and counting. Which of the following do you think contributes the **most** to the national debt? (RANDOMIZED)

<u>ALL</u>	<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-44</u>	<u>45-64</u>	<u>65+</u>	
30%	25%	29%	31%	33%	Operational costs like government administration
27%	16%	25%	33%	28%	Foreign aid
23%	41%	26%	16%	18%	National defense
13%	6%	12%	15%	14%	Entitlement programs like Social Security and Medicare
5%	5%	5%	4%	7%	Health care
2%	6%	4%	1%	--	Education

Which statement comes closer to your point of view? (ROTATED)

<u>ALL</u>	<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-44</u>	<u>45-64</u>	<u>65+</u>	
67%	51%	62%	75%	70%	The federal government should cut programs and services so we can reduce spending and taxes and stop adding to the debt
33%	49%	38%	25%	30%	The federal government should provide more programs and services, even if it means higher spending, taxes, and debt

RETIREMENT

Do you have more confidence in... (ROTATED)

<u>ALL</u>	<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-44</u>	<u>45-64</u>	<u>65+</u>	
52%	48%	58%	53%	48%	Your own ability to save, invest, and prepare for your own retirement
11%	19%	9%	12%	7%	The federal government's ability to deliver Social Security benefits to you when you're ready to retire
28%	28%	23%	29%	33%	Neither
9%	6%	10%	6%	13%	Don't Know

SOCIAL SECURITY

Do you think Social Security has a (ROTATED) generally positive or generally negative (END ROTATION) effect on the country?

<u>ALL</u>	<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-44</u>	<u>45-64</u>	<u>65+</u>	
85%	76%	83%	84%	93%	Generally positive
15%	24%	17%	16%	7%	Generally negative

In your opinion, what should determine how much someone receives in Social Security retirement benefits? (ROTATED)

<u>ALL</u>	<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-44</u>	<u>45-64</u>	<u>65+</u>	
64%	33%	57%	71%	82%	Income during working years
26%	47%	28%	23%	13%	Need during retirement years
10%	20%	15%	6%	6%	Don't Know

A government safety net program for the elderly should provide payments based on... (ROTATED)

<u>ALL</u>	<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-44</u>	<u>45-64</u>	<u>65+</u>	
45%	32%	49%	47%	48%	Income during working years
40%	47%	32%	41%	40%	Need during retirement years
15%	21%	19%	11%	12%	Don't Know

Generally speaking, would you (ROTATED) support or oppose (END ROTATION) changes to the law that would allow younger people to choose not to receive Social Security in exchange for a lower payroll tax?

<u>ALL</u>	<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-44</u>	<u>45-64</u>	<u>65+</u>	
38%	54%	36%	34%	35%	Support
38%	18%	32%	46%	45%	Oppose
24%	28%	32%	20%	19%	Don't Know

SPECIFIC REFORMS

Several reforms have been proposed to change Social Security to prevent the program's insolvency. Please indicate your level of agreement with each statement. "1" means "disagree completely" and "10" means "agree completely."

End the exemption for state and local government employees, who do not pay taxes into Social Security, but who can be eligible for Social Security benefits upon retirement (in addition to being eligible for any other taxpayer-funded pension program they receive with their employment).

	Disagree Completely										Agree Completely	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	MEAN	
ALL	5%	1%	2%	2%	12%	8%	10%	9%	12%	39%	7.7	
18-29	--	*	1%	2%	18%	18%	15%	9%	14%	23%	7.4	
30-44	7%	--	1%	4%	16%	9%	12%	12%	5%	34%	7.3	
45-64	4%	2%	2%	2%	10%	5%	11%	9%	15%	39%	7.8	
65+	6%	2%	2%	1%	8%	2%	4%	7%	13%	56%	8.3	

Lifetime income limits should be imposed for eligibility because the wealthy have greater ability to save on their own. The program should be for those who really need it.

	Disagree Completely										Agree Completely	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	MEAN	
ALL	8%	4%	5%	4%	14%	10%	12%	10%	10%	24%	6.7	
18-29	1%	3%	3%	4%	12%	10%	26%	16%	12%	13%	7.0	
30-44	5%	4%	7%	4%	20%	13%	8%	5%	3%	32%	6.7	
45-64	11%	6%	6%	5%	11%	12%	10%	8%	11%	20%	6.2	
65+	10%	3%	3%	3%	14%	5%	9%	12%	14%	28%	7.0	

MESSAGING

Next, you'll see some arguments people have made for and against reforming Social Security. Please indicate your level of agreement with each statement. "1" means "disagree completely" and "10" means "agree completely."

(HALF SAMPLE) Social Security is a government program of the past. It may have worked decades ago, when only the wealthy had retirement tools at their disposal. But today's young adults need a fresh, flexible approach to retirement security that puts them, not government, in greater control of their savings and future.

	Disagree Completely					Agree Completely					
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	MEAN
ALL	14%	7%	8%	6%	16%	9%	12%	10%	7%	10%	5.4
18-29	6%	--	--	8%	4%	12%	27%	24%	7%	12%	6.9
30-44	10%	6%	11%	4%	18%	4%	18%	11%	11%	8%	5.8
45-64	16%	9%	9%	6%	14%	12%	10%	8%	5%	12%	5.3
65+	17%	9%	8%	8%	21%	7%	6%	9%	7%	8%	5.0

(HALF SAMPLE) Social Security has outlived its original design. People are living and working longer today than 50 years ago, and have greater access to retirement savings tools. Yet, the program remains largely unchanged, putting it on a path to bankruptcy. If we want to save Social Security, it must be updated to fit our modern economy.

	Disagree Completely					Agree Completely					
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	MEAN
ALL	8%	4%	6%	6%	13%	12%	10%	12%	11%	18%	6.4
18-29	2%	2%	13%	4%	18%	9%	10%	18%	5%	18%	6.4
30-44	4%	2%	6%	6%	13%	15%	9%	13%	5%	28%	7.0
45-64	12%	6%	2%	7%	12%	11%	11%	9%	17%	13%	6.2
65+	13%	3%	5%	7%	10%	14%	9%	8%	14%	15%	6.0

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Into which of the following age groups do you fall?

- 16% 18-29
- 24% 30-44
- 36% 45-64
- 23% 65 and older

Are you...

- 53% Female
- 47% Male

Which of the following best describes your racial or ethnic identity?

- 77% White, but not Hispanic or Latino
- 10% African-American
- 8% Hispanic or Latino
- 4% Asian
- * Native American
- 1% Other (Please specify_____)

In what state do you live? (BY REGION)

- 21% East
- 24% Midwest
- 35% South
- 20% West

Do you consider yourself to be a/an... (ROTATED)

- 29% TOTAL REPUBLICAN**
- 41% TOTAL DEMOCRAT**

- 14% Strong Republican
- 15% Somewhat Strong Republican
- 31% Independent
- 23% Somewhat Strong Democrat
- 18% Very Strong Democrat

(ASK OF INDEPENDENT, N=217) Do you lean more toward being... (ROTATED)

- 33% a Republican
- 29% a Democrat
- 39% Neither