



## The Truth about Social Security

- The average Social Security benefit for today's retiree is very modest at \$14,000 per year — or about \$1,300 per month. Two out of three Social Security beneficiaries age 65 and over depend on it for at least half of their total income.
- One in three seniors receiving benefits depend on Social Security for 90% or more of their total income. Without their monthly Social Security checks, it's very likely that half of today's seniors would be living in poverty.
- Social Security benefits more than just retirees. At the end of 2010, nearly 54 million people were receiving benefits: 37 million retired workers and their dependents, 6 million survivors (children) of deceased workers, and 10 million disabled workers and their dependents.
- 98% of Americans agree that Social Security money belongs to the workers who contribute and to their beneficiaries. The vast majority understand that Social Security does not contribute to the deficit, with only 2% believing Social Security is a cause of the deficit. Americans are widely opposed to cuts in Social Security benefits with 78% oppose raising the retirement age.
- Despite the effects of the recession, the Social Security Trust Funds currently have a surplus of \$2.6 trillion. This surplus is projected to grow until 2022. At that time the balance in the trust funds are projected to be \$3.7 trillion.

## Celebrating 76 years of Social Security Success

“As Social Security celebrates its 76th birthday, it's especially important that Americans remind their leaders in Washington just how vital this program has been to millions of middle class families. Social Security is an American success story—yet this basic fact never garners headlines or seldom even a passing mention in Washington's ongoing fiscal debate.

Step outside Capitol Hill and you'll find Americans know Social Security is an economically sound and important program, funded by workers' contributions that ensure a measure of economic security in old age. They also know cutting Social Security isn't fiscal responsibility. For those who claim we 'can't afford Social Security'—the truth is, we can't afford an America without Social Security.”

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The National Committee to Preserve  
Social Security and Medicare



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