



Boost Social Security Campaign Fast Facts

This campaign builds upon the growing public support for expanding Social Security. The Boost Social Security Now education campaign informs and mobilizes our membership, grassroots networks and on-line communities to convince Congress that now is the time to boost benefits, not cut them.

Large majorities of Americans, both Republicans and Democrats, agree on ways to strengthen Social Security — without cutting benefits. In a [poll](#) by Lake Research Partners, 79% of likely voters said they favor increasing Social Security benefits — and funding that increase by having wealthy Americans pay the same rate into Social Security as everyone else.

Two major pieces of legislation have been introduced in Congress to do just that, including Rep. John Larson's [Social Security 2100 Act](#) and Senator Bernie Sanders' [Social Security Expansion Act](#). These bills have attracted hundreds of co-sponsors and the enthusiastic support of the National Committee and other advocacy groups.

The National Committee also supports legislation, including [the CPI-E Act of 2017](#) (H.R. 1251) introduced by Rep. John Garamendi, to adopt a more accurate cost-of-living adjustment formula based on the Consumer Price Index for the Elderly.

We also endorse proposals to modernize benefits, including caregiver credits for workers who take time off to care for family members, and improving the basic benefit for all current and future beneficiaries.

Why We Should Boost Benefits Now

Social Security's average monthly benefit of just \$1,409 is akin to a monthly paycheck for a worker on minimum wage. Social Security benefits represent 90% of the total income of nearly half of America's single retirees, and 22% of married couples'. Over 62 million Americans of all ages depend on the anti-poverty protection offered by Social Security.

Social Security benefits are not keeping pace with the cost of living in America. The annual Social Security cost of living allowance for beneficiaries has averaged just 1.4% over the [past seven years](#), including a 0% increase in 2015 and nearly zero in 2016.

Growing income inequality and lack of employer-provided pensions will make Social Security even more crucial for future generations. According to a [2018 study](#), 21% of Americans have saved nothing for retirement, and a third of Americans have less than \$5,000.

Social Security's positive economic impact shouldn't be ignored. American families spend more than \$800 billion in Social Security benefits nationwide each year, providing 1.6 trillion in economic stimulus to the national economy every year, which helps not just beneficiaries and their families, but all Americans.