



What Women Say™ : Insights and Policy Solutions for Lifelong Financial Security

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Support for government programs designed to help women achieve a secure retirement is very strong across demographic and party lines.



Next, we are going to review some things the federal government could do to help people with planning and saving for retirement.



These proposed items would be new programs or offerings, would likely have a cost associated with them and may require new federal government spending or reductions in spending on other federal programs in order to pay for them.

Of 13 proposed policies tested, 8 received over 90% total support

Ranked by % Total Support

	% Strongly Support	% Total Support
Make the cost-of-living adjustment for Social Security benefits more accurately reflect the costs of housing and health care	67%	94%
Provide a tax break to family caregivers to help cover the out-of-pocket costs of providing care to a seriously ill, disabled, or elderly loved one	57%	94%
Raise the minimum benefit provided by Social Security to above the federal poverty level	59%	92%
Improve access to the federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program that pays monthly benefits to people with limited income and resources who are disabled, blind, or age 65 or older	55%	92%
Provide free educational programs to middle-aged and older adults on how to save for retirement and make the most of their Social Security benefits	54%	91%
Create a new government provided retirement plan that would allow workers whose employers do not currently provide a retirement plan to set aside their savings tax-free until they retire and start withdrawing funds from the account	52%	91%
Provide government assistance to lower income older adults to help pay for basic needs, such as food, housing, and transportation	57%	90%
Create a new government program that provides up to 12 weeks of paid leave to workers who need to leave work to care for a seriously ill family member	52%	90%

Majorities of women ages 25+ across party affiliation support the 6 Social Security policies tested

<i>Ranked by % Total Support – All Women Ages 25+</i>	All Women Ages 25+	Republicans (35%)	Independents (21%)	Democrats (44%)
Make the cost-of-living adjustment for Social Security benefits more accurately reflect the costs of housing and health care	94%	95%	92%	95%
Raise the minimum benefit provided by Social Security to above the federal poverty level	92%	90%	91%	94%
Provide free educational programs to middle-aged and older adults on how to save for retirement and make the most of their Social Security benefits	91%	87%	91%	95%
Provide an increase in Social Security benefits to lower income individuals ages 85 and older	88%	84%	87%	91%
Allow people to continue earning Social Security credit if they are stay at home parents, raising children, or unable to work while caring for a seriously ill, disabled, or elderly loved one	84%	79%	80%	91%
Lower the current 10-year marriage requirement to be eligible for spouse and survivor Social Security benefits	75%	67%	75%	82%

Significant majorities of women ages 25+ across party affiliation support the 7 non-Social Security policies tested.

<i>Ranked by % Total Support – All Women Ages 25+</i>	All Women Ages 25+	Republicans (35%)	Independents (21%)	Democrats (44%)
Provide a tax break to family caregivers to help cover the out-of-pocket costs of providing care to a seriously ill, disabled, or elderly loved one	94%	94%	93%	94%
Improve access to the federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program that pays monthly benefits to people with limited income and resources who are disabled, blind, or age 65 or older	92%	89%	92%	94%
Create a new government provided retirement plan that would allow workers whose employers do not currently provide a retirement plan to set aside their savings tax-free until they retire and start withdrawing funds from the account	91%	88%	91%	93%
Provide government assistance to lower income older adults to help pay for basic needs, such as food, housing, and transportation	90%	87%	88%	93%
Create a new government program that provides up to 12 weeks of paid leave to workers who need to leave work to care for a seriously ill family member	90%	86%	92%	93%
Create a new government program to pay for some long-term care costs, including for nursing home and home care	89%	84%	89%	93%
Reduce or eliminate the requirements that limit the amount of savings or assets that older adults are allowed to have in order to qualify for government low-income benefits	86%	83%	84%	89%

Contact

Howard Bedlin

Government Relations and Advocacy Principal

Howard.Bedlin@ncoa.org

National Council on Aging



