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Arkansas Voters Strongly Favor Expanding Social Security

A [new poll](#) of likely voters in Arkansas¹ reveals strong support for expanding Social Security benefits, as well as strong opposition to politicians who would propose cuts. Furthermore, those surveyed said that Social Security was a major factor they would consider when voting in November. The poll reveals strong bipartisan support for Social Security.

Social Security Is an Important Issue in Arkansas Elections

Likely voters in Arkansas indicate that Social Security is a major issue that has the potential to decide elections. Furthermore, the survey reveals fierce opposition to those proposing benefit cuts such as the chained CPI.

- 57 percent of those surveyed said that Social Security was a very important issue “when deciding who to vote for.” An additional 25 percent said that it was “somewhat important.”
- 66 percent said that they would be less likely to vote for their member of Congress if that member “voted for cuts to Social Security benefits.”
- 65 percent said that they would be less likely to vote for their member of Congress if that member “voted for the chained CPI benefit cut.”

In addition to voicing strong opposition to benefit cuts, a majority of those surveyed voiced support for expanding benefits:

- 50 percent said that they would be more likely to vote for their member of Congress if that member “voted for increasing Social Security benefits.”
- 60 percent said they strongly supported “increasing Social Security benefits and paying for that increase by having the wealthy pay the same rate into Social Security as everyone else.”

Support for Social Security in Arkansas Is Bipartisan

Likely voters surveyed in Arkansas revealed that support for Social Security is not tied to political affiliation. Of those surveyed:

- 61 percent of Democrats and 71 percent of Republicans said they would be less likely to support a member of Congress who “voted for cuts to Social Security benefits.”
- 67 percent of Democrats and 40 percent of Republicans said that they would be more likely to support a member of Congress who “voted for increasing Social Security benefits.”

- 79 percent of Democrats and 48 percent of Republicans strongly supported “increasing Social Security benefits and paying for that increase by having the wealthy pay the same rate into Social Security as everyone else.”

Similar levels of support for Social Security appeared across gender, racial/ethnic background, and age groups:

- 69 percent of women and 63 percent of men said they would be less likely to support a member of Congress who “voted for cuts to Social Security benefits.”
- 71 percent of African Americans and 68 percent of Hispanic Americans said that Social Security was a very important issue “when deciding who to vote for.”
- 64 percent of those aged 18-29, and 63 percent of those over age 65, strongly supported “increasing Social Security benefits and paying for that increase by having the wealthy pay the same rate into Social Security as everyone else.”

¹ The poll was conducted by Public Policy Polling for Social Security Works. It surveyed 808 likely voters in Arkansas on September 9-10, 2014. Full results can be found at <http://www.socialsecurityworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/ArkansasResults.pdf>.