

# STRENGTHEN SOCIAL SECURITY

**...don't cut it.**

## Polling Memo: Americans' Views on Social Security

### [Pew: Campaign Exposes Fissures Over Issues, Values and How Life Has Changed in the U.S.](#)

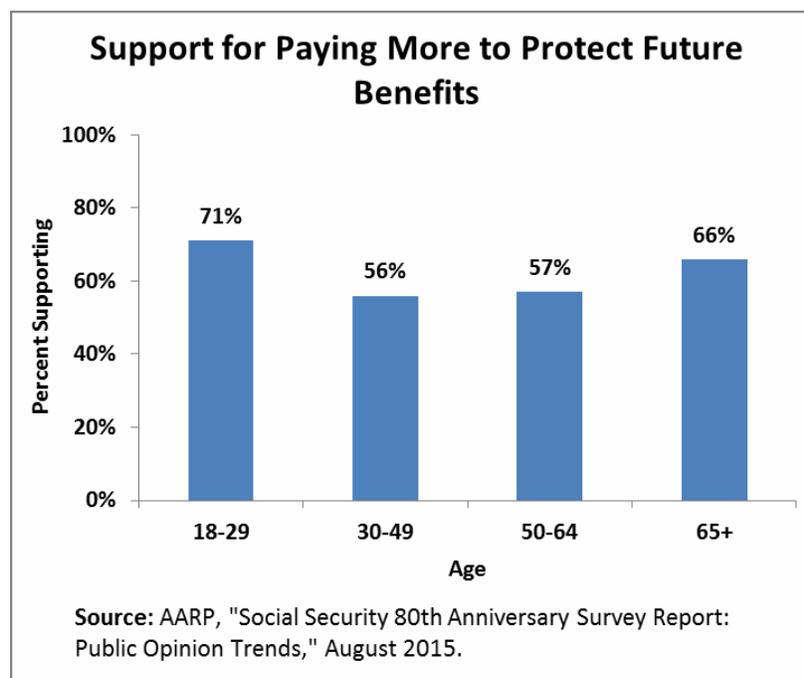
March 2016

- Among all voters, 71% say that, when thinking about the future of Social Security, benefits should not be reduced (26% say reductions need to be considered).
- Among supporters of the presidential candidates, majorities ranging from 62% to 73% say Social Security benefits should not be reduced.

### [AARP: "Social Security 80th Anniversary Survey Report, Public Opinion Trends"](#)

August 2015

- 61 percent of Americans believe the average monthly retiree benefit of \$1,322 is too low.
- Majorities of all ages agree that it is beneficial to pay more into Social Security now in order to protect benefits for future generations.



[Gallup: New Polling on Social Security](#)

**August 2015**

- 57 percent of Americans prefer a raise in Social Security taxes rather than a cut in benefits to ensure long-term solvency of the program.

**SSW: "Iowa and New Hampshire Voters Strongly Favor Protecting Social Security Benefits"**

**August 2015**

*A majority of voters in New Hampshire and Iowa would vote against a candidate who proposed cutting or reducing Social Security benefits.*

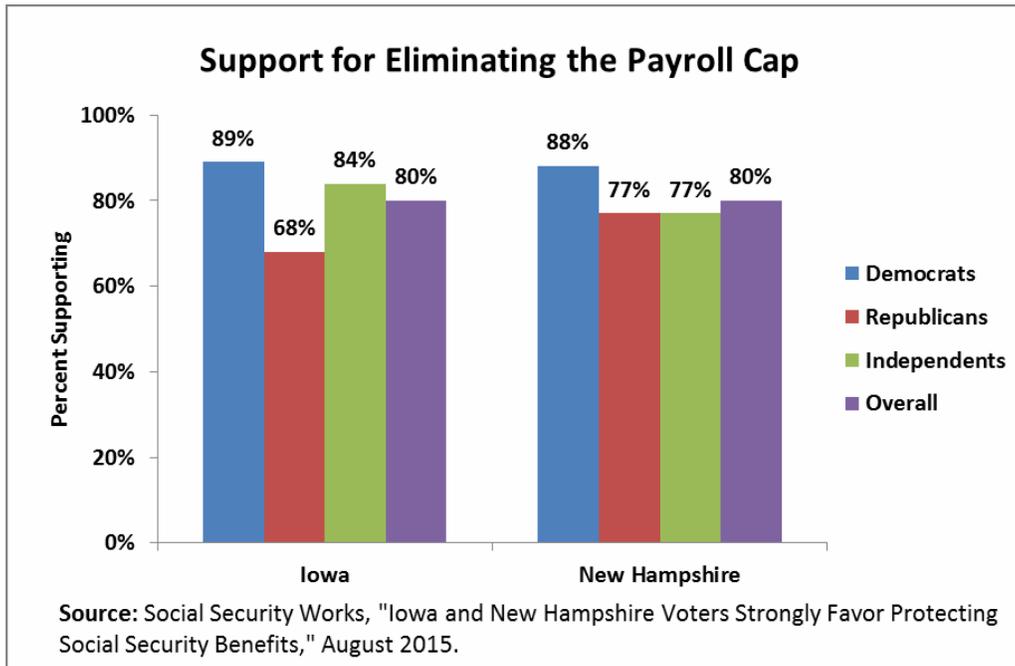
- 63 percent of Iowa voters say they would be less likely to vote for a candidate who proposed cutting or reducing Social Security benefits.
- 71 percent of voters from New Hampshire would be less likely to vote for a candidate who proposed cutting or reducing Social Security benefits.

*A strong majority of New Hampshire and Iowa voters would support a candidate whose campaign platform protected Social Security benefits.*

- 80 percent of Iowa and New Hampshire voters say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate who proposed protecting our Social Security benefits.

*Over three-quarters of voters in Iowa and New Hampshire believe that the payroll tax dedicated to Social Security should be equally applied to everyone regardless of income.*

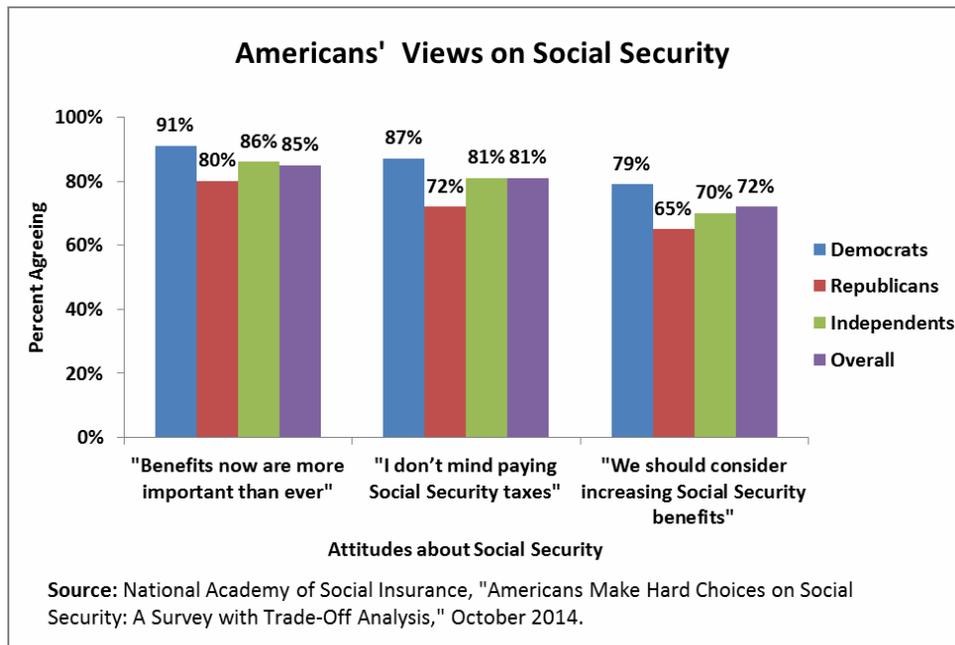
- 77 percent of voters in New Hampshire and 76 percent of voters in Iowa believe that Congress should make millionaires and billionaires pay the same rate on all of their income, by eliminating the maximum taxable wage base and applying it to earned and invested income.



## [NASI: "Americans Make Hard Choices on Social Security"](#)

October 2014

- 86 percent of Americans agree that Social Security benefits do not provide enough income for retirees.
- 72 percent of Americans agree we should consider raising Social Security benefits in order to provide a secure retirement for working Americans.
- 85 percent of Americans believe that Social Security benefits are now more important than ever.
- 81 percent of Americans don't mind paying Social Security taxes because they provide stability and security to millions.
- 72 percent of Americans think we should consider increasing Social Security benefits.



- 55 percent of Americans believed that the average Social Security disability benefit in January 2014 (\$1,146) was too low.
- 77 percent of working Americans would pay more to preserve Social Security benefits.
- 83 percent of top earners would pay more to preserve Social Security benefits.
- 71 percent would prefer a package of changes that increases Social Security revenues, pays for benefit improvements, and eliminates the projected financing gap.

[SSW/ Community Change Action: Public Opinion on Social Security](#)

**August 2014**

- 79 percent of likely 2014 voters supported increasing Social Security benefits by eliminating the income cap on taxes.
- 63 percent of likely 2014 voters were more likely to vote for their member of Congress if they supported increasing Social Security benefits.
- 70 percent of likely 2014 voters were less likely to vote for their member of Congress if they voted for cuts to Social Security benefits.

[PEW: "Political Polarization in the American](#)

[Public"](#) June 2014

- Despite overwhelming polarization on most issues, 67 percent of Americans don't think Social Security cuts should be an option.

