

FRIDAY ALERT



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Super Tuesday Results: Clinton Favored by Seniors

[Exit polls](#) show that **Hillary Clinton** won 8 out of 10 votes among seniors voting in Tuesday's Virginia Democratic primary and 8 out of 10 voters over 45 in Arkansas. Nationally, Clinton's call for breaking down barriers seems to be resonating among African-Americans, Hispanics and [older women voting in the primaries](#) while Sanders' message is reaching more young people, progressive activists and white working class voters. Clinton's "moderated populism" is more comfortable for Democrats with higher incomes and seniors overall.



"Seniors seem to be responding to Secretary Clinton's experience," said Alliance President **Robert Roach, Jr.** "Younger Democrats seem to place a higher priority on their candidate coming from outside the establishment."

Gallup Poll: More People are Confident that Social Security will be there for them

Polls are showing an increased optimism that Social Security is in solid financial shape and the public is increasingly saying that they will need to rely on the program during their retirement. According to a 2015 [Gallup poll](#) 36% of non-retirees said that they expect Social Security to be a major source of their income – up from 31% just a year earlier. Among retirees, 59% surveyed said that they expect Social Security to be a major source of their income, up from 55% a year earlier.

Gallup also found that 40% of respondents were very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the Social Security and Medicare programs, up from 37% a year earlier. 49% of non-retirees think that Social Security will be able to pay their full benefits when they retire, up from 37% in 2010.

“The numbers all show the same thing: that the public has more positive feelings about Social Security’s future and increased confidence that it will be a bedrock for them when they need it,” said **Joseph Peters, Jr.**, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance. “The Alliance’s efforts to educate the public about these earned benefits programs are working.”

An Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll referenced in last week’s *Friday Alert* showed that Democrats, Republicans, and Independents all agreed that protecting Social Security benefits should be a [top priority for the next president](#) in the coming years. The poll also found that 85% of Americans believe Social Security’s future is extremely or very important for the next president.

401(k)s have Left the Overwhelming Majority of Americans Unprepared for Retirement

The shift from pensions to 401(k)s has failed the majority of American workers and disproportionately harmed disadvantaged groups, according to a new [report](#) from the Economic Policy Institute. The study finds that women, minorities, and less educated seniors are in a particularly precarious position once they reach retirement age. The report also shows that many Americans do not have enough in retirement savings; that retirement savings have stagnated since the recession; and that half of Americans have no retirement savings whatsoever.

Another troubling finding was that 401(k) plans tend to help the very rich much more than the poor, worsening income inequality.

“With the economy making it harder for Americans to save enough for retirement, it is crucial that we expand Social Security,” said **Richard Fiesta**, Executive Director of the Alliance. “However, there is still no substitute for defined-benefit pensions.”

Western Regional Conference is 4 Days Away; Dates Announced for Northeast Conference

The quadrennial [Western](#) Regional Conference is just four days away. The Conference will be held March 8–9, 2016 at the Tropicana Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada. Onsite registration is available for anyone who has not pre-registered and wishes to attend.

The registration deadline is fast approaching for the Alliance’s quadrennial [Southern](#) Regional conference, March 29–30, 2016 at the Buena Vista Palace Hotel in Orlando, Florida. Please register and make your hotel reservations today.

The quadrennial [Midwest](#) Regional Conference will be held May 4-5, 2016 at the MGM Grand Hotel in Detroit, Michigan. The [Northeast](#) Regional Conference will take place in Washington, DC, May 19 - 20, 2016. During each conference we will elect four regional board members and prepare for the 2016 general election. Questions? Contact **Joni Jones** at jjones@retiredamericans.org or 202-637-5377.