



# FRIDAY ALERT

## Alliance for Retired Americans

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[www.retiredamericans.org](http://www.retiredamericans.org)

Spanish version: [www.alianzadejubilados.org](http://www.alianzadejubilados.org)

March 27, 2026

## Senate Budget Committee Holds Hearing on Social Security Trust Fund Shortfall

On Wednesday, members of the Senate Budget Committee [heard from](#) two panels of witnesses about Social Security’s looming financial shortfall. They also evaluated several ways to eliminate the shortfall, including “scrapping” the cap on earnings subject to payroll taxes, taxing investment wealth, raising the retirement age, means testing, and borrowing more money.

Eliminating the cap on income eligible for payroll taxes emerged as a popular solution, with Ranking Member **Jeff Merkley** (OR) highlighting it in his opening statement. Sen. **Bernie Moreno** (OH) also signaled support for scrapping the cap, and both he and Sen. **Rick Scott** (FL) expressed opposition to raising the retirement age.



Sen. **Sheldon Whitehouse** (RI) presented his plan – the [Medicare and Social Security Fair Share Act](#) (S. 1690, H.R. 3271) – which would generate more funding by increasing the amount that people making over \$400,000 contribute into the Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds, regardless of income source (e.g. wages, self-employment, and investment income would all be taxed).

“Making the wealthy pay their fair share into Social Security is a common sense solution and its time has come,” said **Robert Roach, Jr.**, President of the Alliance. “Congress should take immediate action to get this and other legislation aiming to strengthen Social Security and increase benefits over the finish line.”

## “No Kings, No Kingmakers” Report: America’s Wealthiest Families Investing Heavily in Political Campaigns

On March 25, [Americans for Tax Fairness released a shocking report](#): As of March 1, the fifty wealthiest families in the United States have made more than \$433 million in political contributions. More than 80 percent of these donations have gone to Republican candidates or conservative issue groups.

The **Musk** family, whose most famous member, **Elon**, is also the world's wealthiest person, has spent the most on campaign contributions at \$71 million. The Yass, Brockman, Uihlein, Schwarzman, Singer, and Warren families round out the top seven in top contributors, and all gave to Republican candidates and causes.

Despite campaign finance laws limiting how much an individual can contribute to a political candidate or party, super PACs can spend unlimited amounts.

"This new report shows that we're living in an oligarchy," said **Richard Fiesta**, Executive Director of the Alliance. "Every election cycle, a handful of the wealthiest Americans spend more than most of us will ever earn in our lifetimes to decide the outcome of elections, all so they can continue the cycle of avoiding paying their fair share like the rest of us. We need an overhaul of campaign finance laws in order to ensure we have elections that are decided by the people rather than billionaires."

### "No Kings" is this Weekend – Find an Event Near You



The Alliance is a partner for this weekend's No Kings Day of Nonviolent Action.

Tomorrow, March 28, millions of Americans will come together in morally grounded, nonviolent direct action, in cities across the country to send the message: America does not belong to strongmen, greedy billionaires, or those who govern through fear. It belongs to the people.

[Click here to find an event near you.](#)

### Supreme Court Considers Case that Could Affect 46 Million Americans Who Vote by Mail

The U.S. Supreme Court [heard oral arguments](#) in a state voting rights case that could have implications for national vote by mail rules. Last year, the Mississippi Alliance joined the Vet Voice Foundation as an intervenor, defending a state law that allows ballots mailed on or before Election Day and received at least five days after Election Day to be counted. The case reached the Supreme Court after the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals [rejected a](#) federal court's initial ruling declaring that Mississippi's state law should not be thrown out.

The final ruling will have [lasting effects](#) for 29 states that also have grace periods allowing officials to count ballots that are postmarked on or before Election Day. More than 46 million voters cast their ballots by mail in 2024, and 119,000 of those took longer than seven days to deliver, according to the Postal Service.

"Making it more difficult to vote by mail doesn't make elections more secure, it just creates unnecessary hurdles for seniors and other Americans when they exercise their constitutional right to vote," said **Joseph Peters, Jr.**, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance.

## Deadline to Register for Alliance's National Membership Meeting is in Two Weeks

The deadline to register and make hotel reservations for the Alliance's National Membership Meeting is **April 6, 2026**.

The meeting is from April 27 to April 30 at the Sahara Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. [Click here to read the convention call and to register for the meeting.](#) **Hotel rooms are filling up fast, so please register and book your room as soon as possible.**



Attendees will elect the Alliance's officers, participate in special workshops, learn about emerging issues and what's at stake in the 2026 elections, and develop ways to grow our retiree activism. AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer **Fred Redmond**, former SSA Commissioner **Martin O'Malley**, pollster **Jason McGrath**, and President and CEO of the International Center on Nonviolent Conflict (ICNC) [Hardy Merriman](#) are all slated to speak.

There will also be a special "Senior Prom Ball and Dinner" celebrating the Alliance's 25th anniversary. Registered attendees can bring outside guests to this event for a fee of \$50 per person.

Please contact Joni Jones at [jjones@retiredamericans.org](mailto:jjones@retiredamericans.org) or 888-373-6497 with any questions.

### ***KFF Health News: Rising Health Costs Push Some Middle-Aged Adults To Skip the Doc Until Medicare***

**By Sam Whitehead**

John Galvin knows he needs a colonoscopy. But he's waiting to schedule the procedure until December, when he turns 65 and qualifies for Medicare.

He was already thinking about delaying it — then his monthly Obamacare insurance premium payment tripled this year to \$2,460, about a third of his income, he said. And with a \$2,700 deductible, he'd be on the hook for most of the diagnostic exam, a financial hit he said he couldn't stomach.

"It was going to cost close to \$3,000," said Galvin, who lives in North Kingstown, Rhode Island, and recently retired as director of a durable medical equipment company. "I put it off."

Galvin said his wife, Nancy, is delaying a costly CT scan for a few years until she too qualifies for Medicare, so it can foot the bill. The federal health program offers coverage for all Americans 65 and older.

People on Affordable Care Act plans nearing retirement age experienced some of the largest price increases following the expiration of enhanced federal subsidies at the end of December. Those with incomes above 400% of the federal poverty level — \$86,560 for a family of two — had been getting help paying for the plans since the Biden administration expanded the subsidies during the covid-19 pandemic. Adults ages 50 through 64 made up around half of those ACA enrollees.

Now, without that federal financial help, some in this age group say they're wrestling with whether to delay care until they qualify for Medicare. Not only does that put their physical health at risk, said patient advocates, doctors, and health policy researchers, but it potentially just shifts the costs — and could lead to taxpayers' footing even bigger bills to fix health issues that worsen amid the delays.

[Read more here.](#)

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The Alliance for Retired Americans is a national grassroots advocacy organization with 4.4 million members fighting for retirement security for all Americans. [www.retiredamericans.org](http://www.retiredamericans.org) @activeretirees