



FRIDAY ALERT

Alliance for Retired Americans

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Majority of Americans are Worried About Social Security Cuts

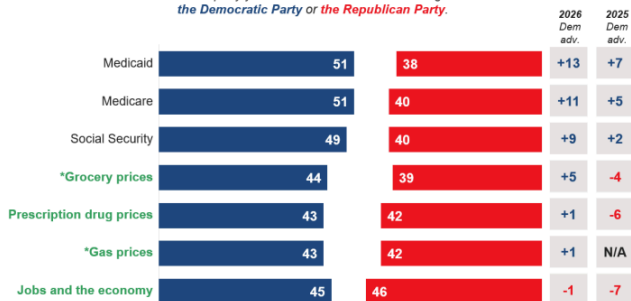
[A new survey from the Employee Benefit Research Institute \(EBRI\)](#) finds four in five workers and seven in 10 retirees are concerned over potential Social Security benefit cuts. The results come after the Congressional Budget Office moved the projected Trust Fund depletion up a year, thanks to provisions in the “One Big, Beautiful Bill” Act (OBBBA).

EBRI analysts attribute Americans’ concerns to immediate financial pressures and long-term uncertainty. Many workers are struggling with debt, [inflation](#), and rising housing and health care costs, while retirees are increasingly worried about the future of Social Security. They also noted that household debt, which includes mortgages and auto loans, are at an all-time high.

“The results of this survey should set off alarm bells,” said **Robert Roach, Jr.**, President of the Alliance. “Americans are rightfully worried that they may not get the full benefits they earned. Congress must take action to protect earned benefits from cuts and adopt the Consumer Price Index for the Elderly (CPI-E) so that cost-of-living adjustments actually reflect the costs seniors are facing.”

Retired Americans PAC: New Poll of Older Voters Shows Trump and GOP Standing in Decline, Democrats Gain Ground on Key Issues

Please indicate which party you think would be better at dealing with that issue – the Democratic Party or the Republican Party.



* = Split-sample

[A new nationwide](#) survey of likely voters aged 60 and older shows Trump and the GOP losing ground with voters. Over the past year, Trump’s favorability has seen a net decrease of eight points while his job approval rating has seen a decline of 11 points with this demographic.

The survey, commissioned by Retired Americans PAC, the independent political arm of the Alliance for Retired Americans, finds the movement away from Trump is driven in large part by Independents. In a generic Congressional

ballot, Democrats took a slim lead over Republicans, with the Democratic candidate earning 46 points to the Republican candidate's 44.

While Trump and Republicans continue to hemorrhage support, Democrats have made gains against the GOP on every key issue, including health care, the economy, Medicare, and Social Security since Retired Americans PAC's 2025 survey. Respondents identified lowering prices and cracking down on government corruption as their top two issues. When asked which party would be best at handling key issues, the poll found that Democrats are now trusted over the GOP by double digits on Medicaid and Medicare, and by 9 points on Social Security – significant positive shifts from 2025.

“Older voters are demanding real leadership and action on the issues that matter most to them. From tackling the affordability crisis and rooting out corruption in government, it's clear that Democrats are gaining ground on these key issues. But there is still significant ground to make up – and they must spend every day between now and Election Day working to communicate clear solutions to the challenges facing this critical voting bloc,” said **Richard Fiesta**, Executive Director of Retired Americans PAC and the Alliance for Retired Americans.

[Read more here.](#)

FDA Blocks Release of Studies Confirming Safety of Shingles and COVID Vaccines

Over the past seven months, Food and Drug Administration (FDA) officials have thwarted the publication of several studies showing that widely used COVID and Shingles vaccines are safe and effective, according to a new report from the [New York Times](#).

In October, officials directed researchers to retract two COVID vaccine studies that had been accepted for publication in prominent medical journals. In one study, researchers assessed the level of risk for certain health complications after COVID vaccination by reviewing medical records for seven million Medicare beneficiaries in 2023 and 2024. Researchers found no elevated risk for 13 out of the 14 conditions examined. Officials also refused to greenlight abstract submissions for Shingrix research at a major drug safety conference. The studies were done by agency scientists and funded with millions of dollars in taxpayer money.

Previously, the Administration has undermined vaccine access by slashing funding for development research, publishing unverified information that casts doubts about safety, and blocking other publications that demonstrate safety or effectiveness.

“Older Americans are more likely to suffer serious complications from illnesses like Shingles and COVID,” said **Joseph Peters, Jr.**, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance. “They deserve to have access to accurate information about how to prevent serious illnesses.”

Alliance Marks Older Americans Month

This May is Older Americans Month, a time to commemorate older Americans and reflect on their contributions.

It also provides an opportunity to examine ageism and its negative effects. Previous analysis suggests that it's common for older Americans to encounter stereotyping, prejudice, and age-based discrimination. [In one study](#) of adults between 50 and 80 years old, 93 percent said they had experienced some form of ageism.

Adopting harmful ageist views can damage one's health as they age, so it's important to challenge negative stereotypes and media portrayals as early in life as possible. Defying ageist assumptions can actually improve health and make people live longer, [according to new research](#).

Local aging services can also help seniors combat isolation and ageist attitudes. You can find local resources in your area with [Eldercare Locator](#).

KFF Health News: A New Medicare Option for Weight Loss Drugs: What Older Americans Should Know

By Jackie Fortiér

Starting in July, Medicare beneficiaries may be able to get a GLP-1 prescription for weight loss for \$50 a month. It's a notable shift for Medicare, which has long been barred from covering weight loss treatments.

The drugs, such as Wegovy and Zepbound, are effective but can be expensive without insurance coverage. They're available in injection or pill form. Even with discounts, current cash prices typically range from \$149 to \$699 per month.

About half of GLP-1 users say these drugs were difficult for them to afford, according to KFF polling. A quarter said they were "very difficult" to afford.

But the new Medicare benefit comes with caveats, particularly around clinical guidelines and what happens when the short-term program ends.

[Read more here.](#)