

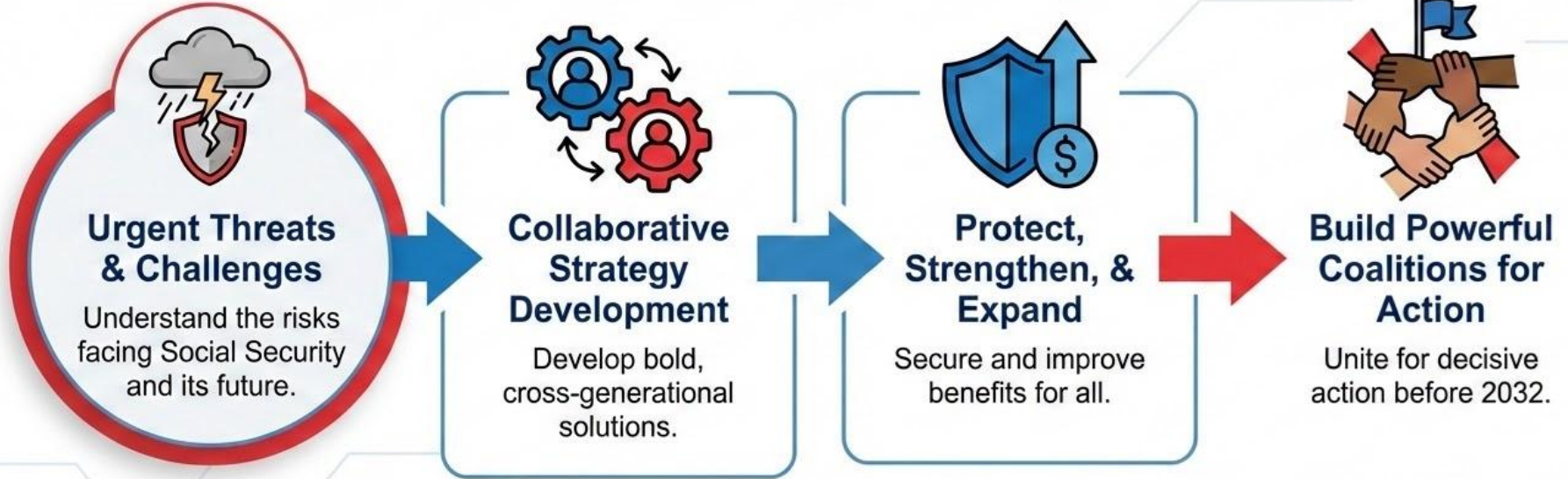


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# **Social Security at a Crossroads: Building a Coalition to Protect and Increase Benefits Before 2032**

David Simon

# Presentation Overview



# Why Social Security Is Worth Fighting For



Social Security is the nation's largest anti-poverty program



Millions rely on it for basic income security



Essential for retirees, people with disabilities, and families



# The Crossroads Moment



Trust Fund projected shortfall projected by 2032-34



Without Congressional action: automatic benefit cuts (~20%)



This can be avoided, it is NOT inevitable

# The Threat Landscape



## Administrative

- SSA underfunding, staffing shortages, service delays



## Political

- Proposals to cut, privatize, or weaken benefits/raise FRA.



## Financial

- SSTF revenue shortfall and inequities in payroll tax structure

# REAL-WORLD IMPACT



Long wait times  
and delayed  
disability decisions



Barriers to  
accessing earned  
benefits



Growing economic  
insecurity for seniors  
and disabled workers



# The Opportunity to Fix SS



Social  
Security is  
fixable



We can  
protect AND  
expand  
benefits



Policy  
solutions  
exist

# Best Policy Pathways



Lift or eliminate  
the payroll tax  
tax cap



Strengthen and  
expand benefits  
(COLA, minimum  
benefits)



Invest in SSA  
administration  
and staffing

# The Importance of Coalitions

- No single group can win this alone
- Broad alliances have driven past victories
- Power comes from unity across movements

# THANKS TO OUR WONDERFUL PARTNERS WHO LEAD THE PROP 50 PHONEBANKS





**850 VOLUNTEER SHIFTS EXECUTED**

**426,674 CALLS MADE**

**12,002 SENIOR VOTERS  
CONTACTED**

**10,383 SENIORS AGREED  
TO VOTE YES**



**CA  
DEM**  
CALIFORNIA  
DEMOCRATIC  
PARTY

# Barriers to Coalition Building

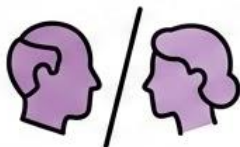
What is the biggest barrier to forging a broad coalition?



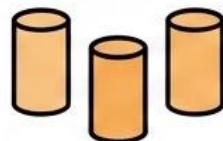
Messaging



Political divisions



Generational disconnect



Organizational silos

# Building The Coalitions

Who is missing?



Identifying gaps in current efforts.

What resonates?



Crafting messages across generations.

What unites?



Defining actions for diverse groups.

# Call To Action



**Build new partnerships  
across movements.**



**Advocate for policies that  
expand benefits.**



**Commit to one action  
after today.**

# Questions?

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