



FRIDAY ALERT

Alliance for Retired Americans

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Supreme Court Allows Administration to Move Forward with Plan to Restrict Mail-In Voting, But Legal Challenges Remain

On Monday, the U.S. Supreme Court issued an emergency opinion [allowing](#) the Trump Administration [to pursue](#) mail voting restrictions outlined in an executive order President **Donald Trump** signed in March.

The order requires state election officials to provide the United States Postal Service (USPS) with a list of voters who requested mail-in or absentee ballots and would prohibit USPS from sending mail ballots to anyone not on the list. USPS officials [released final regulations](#) detailing how the agency will carry out the executive order late last week.

But details about whether and/or how the rule will impact the midterm elections are still murky. On Tuesday, a federal judge in Massachusetts [found that](#) by finalizing the USPS rule, Administration officials violated a previous court order blocking implementation of mail voting restrictions nationwide. The judge [issued a temporary restraining order](#) on Thursday preventing USPS from making any major changes to mail voting while litigation is ongoing. That decision means that parts of President **Trump's** executive order will be blocked for at least 14 days. 24 states and the District of Columbia have also already [filed a new lawsuit](#) that seeks to block the USPS rule from taking effect.

Previously, 19 state Alliances went to court to prevent the Administration from accessing sensitive voter data and protect mail voting in their states.

Administration officials have signaled that in addition to trying to limit mail voting, they also intend to increase observation at the polls this November. Last week, the Department of Justice [announced](#) that it plans to deploy 1,000 election monitors.

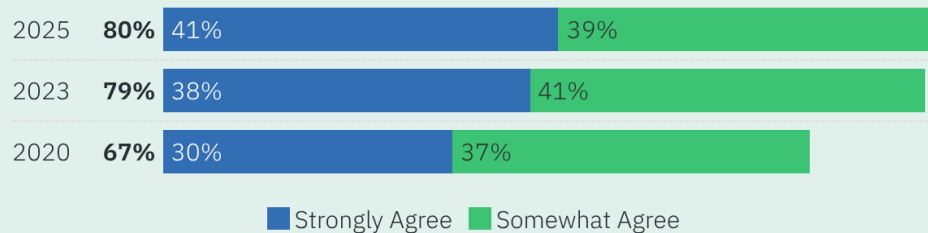
“Injecting uncertainty this close to the midterms and making it harder for Americans to cast their ballots won’t make elections more secure,” said **Robert Roach, Jr.**, President of the Alliance.

“Every eligible voter should be able to exercise their constitutional right to vote without worrying that they will have to face unnecessary barriers while casting their ballots.”

80 Percent of Americans Say the U.S. is Headed Toward a Retirement Crisis

Figure 1: 80% say U.S. faces retirement crisis, up from 67% in 2020.

To what extent do you agree or disagree that America is facing a retirement crisis?



National Institute on Retirement Security

The number of Americans who believe the United States will face a retirement security crisis has increased dramatically, going from 67 percent in 2020 to 80 percent this year, according to the National Institute on Retirement Security’s [“Retirement Insecurity 2026” report](#). More than six in 10 of those surveyed also reported being concerned that they will not have a financially secure retirement.

The findings show that Americans want retirement security even as it’s become more difficult to achieve. 68 percent of those surveyed said healthcare costs, inflation, long-term care, wages failing to keep pace with expenses, and debt – are making it harder to save for retirement, while 85 percent want lawmakers to prioritize retirement security as a top issue.

A majority of Americans are deeply concerned about Social Security cuts, with 76 percent worried about benefits being slashed in 2032 if Congress fails to address the looming financial shortfall.

“Americans want to be able to retire with dignity – and are alarmed that the programs they have paid for over a lifetime are at risk,” said **Richard Fiesta**, Executive Director of the Alliance.

“Congress must listen to the public and take immediate action to strengthen Social Security and increase benefits and ensure that health care is affordable for all Americans. Policies like raising the retirement age, or slashing guaranteed benefits are a non-starter with the American people.”

New Research Challenges Idea that Medicare Advantage Results in Better Health Outcomes than Traditional Medicare

Insurance corporations often market Medicare Advantage plans as alternatives with extra benefits like vision, dental, and hearing services that result in improved health outcomes. However, [recent findings](#) question that notion. A three-year study looked at 35,000 older adults living with Type 2 diabetes; 45 percent were enrolled in Medicare Advantage plans. On average, those enrollees didn’t see better health outcomes compared to their peers covered by traditional Medicare plans.

While the study doesn't give a reason for this, experts hypothesize that accessibility could be a factor. In theory, Medicare Advantage offers more supplemental benefits than traditional plans, but these benefits are often less generous than they first appear, resulting in restricted networks, large fees, or other unanticipated barriers that prevent beneficiaries from being able to access them.

"This new data is worth paying attention to," said **Joseph Peters, Jr.**, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance. "Medicare Advantage plans [cost taxpayers](#) 14 percent more per beneficiary than traditional Medicare this year, which translated into \$76 billion more in federal spending. Insurance corporations should be held accountable when they fail to deliver the better health outcomes promised with these plans."

Officers Re-Elected at New Mexico Alliance Convention

Alliance Executive Director **Richard Fiesta** traveled to Albuquerque last week for the New Mexico Alliance convention. Members re-elected all officers: **Dennis Conerty**, President; **Kelley Allen**, First VP; **Anne Pierce-Jones**, Treasurer; **Virgil Thompson**, Secretary; and **John Doran**, Second VP.

On Saturday, **Fiesta** spoke about the upcoming midterm elections and how critical it is for older Americans to elect pro-retiree candidates. He also highlighted important emerging threats to retirement security, including the latest attempt to create a "fiscal commission" to fast-track Social Security and Medicare cuts behind closed doors.

[Click here to send a message to your members of Congress demanding that they vote against any fiscal commission legislation.](#)

KFF Health News: The Medicare GLP-1 Discount Has One Big Catch: Some Sick Patients Don't Qualify **By Jackie Fortiér**

In January, Jeff La Marca got a prescription for the popular weight loss drug Zepbound. But he couldn't afford the \$750 monthly price tag.

Then Medicare launched an 18-month pilot program that offers GLP-1 medications to some enrollees for only \$50 a month. La Marca thought he might finally be able to afford the drug.

"I thought, 'Thank God, there's a path,'" said La Marca, who lives in Basking Ridge, New Jersey, and has tried numerous diets and exercise regimes.

But the 68-year-old's celebration was short-lived.

His application to the pilot program was denied.

[Read more here.](#)

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 @activeretirees