

Table. 2016 Presidential Candidates' Proposed Changes to Social Security
(last updated July 19, 2016)

Current candidates	Benefit reductions					Revenue increases		Benefit increases					Other changes (See note below for specific changes.)*
	Raise "full retirement age"	Raise earliest eligibility age	Use lower price index for COLA	General reduction	Reduction for higher earners	Lift payroll tax cap	Broaden tax base	General increase	Increase minimum benefit	Use higher price index for COLA	Create caregiver credit	Raise survivor benefits	
<i>Democrat</i>													
Hillary Clinton						X	X				X	X	
<i>Republican</i>													
Donald Trump**													
Former candidates	Benefit reductions					Revenue increases		Benefit increases					Other changes (See note below for specific changes.)*
	Raise "full retirement age"	Raise earliest eligibility age	Use lower price index for COLA	General reduction	Reduction for higher earners	Lift payroll tax cap	Broaden tax base	General increase	Increase minimum benefit	Use higher price index for COLA	Create caregiver credit	Raise survivor benefits	
<i>Democrats</i>													
Bernie Sanders						X	X	X	X	X	X		
Martin O'Malley						X		X	X	X	X		
<i>Republicans</i>													
Jeb Bush	X	X	X		X				X				X
Ben Carson	X												X
Chris Christie	X	X	XX***		X								X
Ted Cruz	X			X****									X
Lindsey Graham	X				X								
Mike Huckabee													X
John Kasich					X								
George Pataki	X												X
Rand Paul	X				X								X
Marco Rubio	X				X				X				X

*Former Republican candidates with no proposed changes******

Carly Fiorina
Jim Gilmore
Rick Santorum

Notes

*Jeb Bush, Chris Christie, and Marco Rubio proposed eliminating payroll taxes for older workers. Jeb Bush and Marco Rubio proposed eliminating the Social Security earnings test. Ben Carson and Ted Cruz proposed allowing workers to invest a portion of their payroll taxes in a personal account. Mike Huckabee, as part of a broad tax reform proposal, would have eliminated Social Security payroll taxes and funded Social Security through some of the revenue from a new consumption tax.

George Pataki proposed requiring all state and local government workers to be covered by Social Security. Rand Paul, as part of a broad tax reform proposal, would have eliminated the employee Social Security payroll tax and funded Social Security through his proposed business tax.

**May have proposed changes in the past, but is not currently proposing any specific changes that would significantly affect the Social Security program.

***To help offset the impact of switching to a lower COLA, Chris Christie supported a one-time 5-percent increase in benefits for all individuals when they reach age 85.

****The general reduction proposed by Ted Cruz would rely on inflation rather than wage growth in calculating initial benefits, as prices are assumed to grow more slowly than wages. Some other candidates may favor a similar approach, but only for higher earners.

*****May have proposed changes in the past, but did not propose any specific changes during this campaign that would significantly affect the Social Security program.

Sources

[Click here for information about the sources used for compiling this list.](#)