

**Table. 2016 Presidential Candidates' Proposed Changes to Social Security**  
(last updated January 4, 2016)

Candidate	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 proposing changes</i>													
<a href="#">Hillary Clinton</a>						X	X				X	X	
<a href="#">Martin O'Malley</a>						X		X	X	X	X		
<a href="#">Bernie Sanders</a>						X	X	X	X	X			
<i>Republicans proposing changes</i>													
<a href="#">Jeb Bush</a>	X	X	X		X				X				X
Ben Carson	X												X
<a href="#">Chris Christie</a>	X	X	X**		X								X
Ted Cruz	X			X***									X
<a href="#">Mike Huckabee</a>													X
John Kasich					X								
<a href="#">Rand Paul</a>	X				X								X
<a href="#">Marco Rubio</a>	X				X				X				X

*Republicans not proposing changes\*\*\*\**

Carly Fiorina  
Jim Gilmore  
Rick Santorum  
Donald Trump

*Notes*

\*Jeb Bush, Chris Christie, and Marco Rubio propose eliminating payroll taxes for older workers. Jeb Bush and Marco Rubio propose eliminating the Social Security earnings test. Ben Carson and Ted Cruz propose 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 eliminate Social Security payroll taxes and fund Social Security through some of the revenue from a new consumption tax. Rand Paul, as part of a broad tax reform proposal, would eliminate the employee Social Security payroll tax and fund Social Security through his proposed business tax.

\*\*To help offset the impact of switching to a lower COLA, Chris Christie supports 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.

\*\*\*\*Some of these candidates have proposed changes in the past, but are not currently proposing any specific changes that would significantly affect the Social Security program.

*Sources*

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