SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY
PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

SOCIAL SECURITY

- OREGON CD5 and NATIONAL -

Field Dates:
Oregon CD5: May 27 – June 18, 2026
National: February 11-26, 2026

Sample Sizes:
Oregon CD5: 500
National: 2,509

Confidence Interval:
Oregon CD5: +/-5.6%
National: +/- 2.9%

Samples Provided by: Multiple online opt-in panels, including Cint, Dynata and Prodege. Sample collection and quality control was managed by QuantifyAI under the direction of the University of Maryland's Program for Public Consultation.

Note: Rows may not add to 100% due to rounding

[Q1-25, 37-43 previously released]
[Q26-30, 44-59 withheld for future release]

The next set of policy proposals are about addressing the budget shortfall of the Social Security program. As you may know, the government projects that, unless some changes are made, the Social Security program will run out of reserves by the year 2033, so at that point it will be necessary to reduce benefits by almost a quarter.

Here are some options that would reduce the budget shortfall of the Social Security program, and thus extend the amount of time that the program can provide full benefits. For each, please say whether you favor or oppose

Q31. Reduce benefits for the top 20% of lifetime earners, which would reduce the budget shortfall by 11%

	Favor	Oppose	Ref/DK
National	65%	35%	0%
Republicans	62%	38%	0%
Democrats	69%	31%	0%
Independents	61%	39%	0%
Oregon CD5	66%	33%	1%
Republicans	63%	36%	1%
Democrats	68%	32%	0%

Q32. Gradually increase the full retirement age from age 67 to 68 by 2033, which would reduce the budget shortfall by 15%

	Favor	Oppose	Ref/DK

National	56%	44%	0%
Republicans	58%	42%	0%
Democrats	55%	45%	0%
Independents	50%	49%	1%
Oregon CD5	52%	47%	1%
Republicans	58%	41%	1%
Democrats	55%	44%	2%

Q33. Gradually increase the payroll tax by 0.05 percent per year for 6 years up to 6.5%, which would reduce the budget shortfall by 15%

	Favor	Oppose	Ref/DK
National	62%	37%	1%
Republicans	61%	38%	1%
Democrats	66%	34%	1%
Independents	55%	43%	1%
Oregon CD5	59%	39%	2%
Republicans	58%	42%	0%
Democrats	61%	37%	2%

Q34. Currently, the amount of salary and wages that are subject to the Social Security payroll tax includes income up to $185,000 per year. Do you favor or oppose also subjecting wages over $400,000 to that payroll tax, which would reduce the budget shortfall by 61%?

	Favor	Oppose	Ref/DK
National	79%	21%	0%
Republicans	77%	23%	0%
Democrats	83%	17%	0%
Independents	74%	26%	0%
Oregon CD5	84%	15%	1%
Republicans	82%	17%	1%
Democrats	89%	10%	1%

Now here are some options for increasing Social Security benefits, which would increase the Social Security shortfall. For each, please select whether you favor or oppose.

Q35. Raise the minimum benefit for those who have worked at least 30 years from the current level of $1,125 a month to $1,630 per month, which would increase the budget shortfall by 8%.

	Favor	Oppose	Ref/DK
National	78%	22%	0%
Republicans	76%	24%	0%
Democrats	81%	19%	0%
Independents	74%	25%	1%
Oregon CD5	79%	21%	1%
Republicans	76%	25%	0%
Democrats	82%	17%	1%

Q36. Change the formula used for calculating Social Security benefits so that it focuses more on what older adults buy, which would increase benefits for all retirees, and also increase the budget shortfall by 12%.

	Favor	Oppose	Ref/DK
National	70%	30%	0%

Republicans	70%	30%	1%
Democrats	73%	27%	0%
Independents	64%	36%	0%
Oregon CD5	66%	32%	2%
Republicans	64%	35%	2%
Democrats	67%	31%	2%

Methodology

Fielding and Sample Size: The surveys were fielded by the Program for Public Consultation (PPC) at the University of Maryland's Civic Innovation Center, with representative non-probability samples obtained from multiple online panels, including Cint, Dynata and Prodege.

National
Field Dates: February 11-26, 2026 Total Sample Size: 2509 Response Rate: 7.6%
Four-fifth Sample Sizes: 1991 to 2020

Oregon CD5
Field Dates: May 27 – June 18, 2026 Sample Size: 500 Response Rate: 7.5%

Pre-Stratification and Weighting: The samples were pre-stratified and weighted by age, race, ethnicity, gender, educational attainment, household income, and home ownership. Benchmarks were obtained from the Census Bureau's 2024 and 2025 American Community Surveys, as well as the 2024 Current Population Survey's Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

The national sample was also weighted by Census region and partisan affiliation. In the Oregon sample, the distribution of partisan affiliation was weighted to be within expectations, based on voter registration data for non-leaners and/or Cook's Partisan Voting Index for leaners.

National
Confidence Interval of Four-fifth Samples: +/-2.9% Min Weight: 0.25 Max Weight: 2.51 Mean Weight: 1.0

Oregon CD5
Confidence Interval: +/-5.6% Min Weight: 0.14 Max Weight: 4.40 Mean Weight: 1.0

Confidence Intervals were calculated using the sample variance of the weights using the following formula:
CI = Square root ((1+variance)/sample size)

Sample Collection: Sample collection was managed by Quant-E with oversight from PPC. Samples were drawn from multiple large online panels, including Cint, Prodege, and Dynata, whose members are recruited using non-probability sampling methods. The selected sample was invited to participate via email invitation, push notification, or SMS for cell phone users. Respondents were offered cash or cash-equivalent incentives to participate in the survey.

Data Collection and Privacy: Survey responses were collected directly on the Qualtrics platform. Only respondents with a provided link could take the survey, using their computer, laptop, tablet, or mobile phone.

Privacy and security measures were taken to ensure that data was collected in adherence to the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation policies for data privacy and security, as well as the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA).

Quality Control: Quality control measures in the sample collection process to disqualify duplicate respondents and survey bots included:

- checking respondents' IP addresses to determine if there are duplicate respondents
- employing an "operating system & Web browser check" to determine if there are any cross-panel duplicates
- using hCaptcha to detect and disqualify survey bots.

Quality control measures within the survey to disqualify dishonest or mischievous respondents, as well as survey bots, included:

- an attention-check question, e.g. Select the word that does not belong. [Tuesday]; [Friday]; [April]; [Wednesday]
- an honesty question, e.g. What have you done in the past week? Select all that apply. [Won a gold medal at the Olympics]; [Watched TV]; [Got a license to operate a Class SSGN submarine]; [Read a book]
- a speed limit, which disqualified respondents who moved through the first quarter of the survey at a pace roughly triple the average reading speed.

Lastly, respondents were removed from the sample who answered less than half the substantive questions, or who engaged in straight-lining.