



You've Earned a



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Colorado Survey Results

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This Colorado statewide survey of adults at least 18 years old finds that when it comes to Medicare and Social Security, Coloradans believe Washington is trying to make too many decisions behind closed doors and Washington needs to spend more time listening to ordinary citizens like them. Coloradans feel that both Medicare and Social Security are important to people's health and financial security in retirement, however their confidence in the programs being there throughout retirement is not very strong. The survey was conducted by Woelfel Research, Inc., an independent research firm, among 500 Colorado residents age 18+ from February 16-29, 2012. The survey has a margin of sampling error of +/- 4.4%.

Medicare

- **Over nine in ten adults (96%) believe Medicare is *important* to people's health in retirement, including over eight in ten who believe it is *very important* (84%).** This sentiment holds true across political parties (96% of Democrats, 96% of Republicans, and 96% of Independents) and age groups (95% of adults under age 50, 97% of 50-64 year-olds, and 95% of adults age 65+) with nearly all believing the program is *important* to people's health in retirement.
- **Roughly half (49%) of adults are *confident* that Medicare will be there for them throughout their retirement. However, only one in ten (10%) are *very confident* about this.** Younger adults are less confident: 38% of adults age 18-49, 59% of 50-64 year-olds, and 75% adults age 65+ express confidence that Medicare will be there for them.

Social Security

- **Over nine in ten adults (94%) believe Social Security is *important* to people's financial security in retirement, including over three quarters who believe it is *very important* (77%).** This sentiment holds true across political parties (97% of Democrats, 90% of Republicans, and 97% of Independents) and age groups (93% of adults under age 50, 96% of 50-64 year-olds, and 97% of adults age 65+) with nearly all believing the program is *important* to people's financial security in retirement.
- **Less than half (41%) of adults are *confident* that Social Security will be there for them throughout their retirement. In fact, only about one in ten (11%) are *very confident* about this.** Younger adults are less confident: 28% of adults age 18-49, 50% of 50-64 year-olds, and 75% adults age 65+ express confidence that Social Security will be there for them.

Views about Washington

- **Over eight in ten adults (81%) agree Washington is trying to make too many decisions behind closed doors when it comes to Medicare and Social Security.** Agreement is seen across political parties (78% of Democrats, 90% of Republicans, 81% of Independents) and age groups (85% of adults under age 50, 77% of adults age 50-64, and 76% of adults age 65+).
- **Over nine in ten adults (95%) agree Washington needs to spend more time listening to ordinary citizens like them when it comes to decisions about Social Security and Medicare, including over eight in ten (82%) who *strongly agree*.** Agreement is seen across political parties (95% of Democrats, 96% of Republicans, 96% of Independents) and age groups (96% of adults under age 50, 95% of adults age 50-64, and 92% of adults age 65+).

METHODOLOGY

The Colorado statewide survey was conducted by Woelfel Research, Inc., an independent research firm, among 500 adults age 18+ from February 16-29, 2012. A combination of landline and cellular random digit dial (RDD) samples were used to represent all adults in Colorado who have access to either a landline or cellular telephone (approximately 98%). A three-stage weighting procedure was used to weight this dual-frame sample. The first stage weight adjusts for the probability of selection within a household and for phone use (overlapping landline and cellular sample frames). The second stage weight combines the cell phone and landline usage to be consistent with Colorado statistics. The third stage weight adjusts the age and gender to be consistent with the distribution in Colorado. The survey has a margin of sampling error of +/- 4.4%.

DATA TABLES

Notes:

Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding

Less than 0.5% shown as “-“

N's shown are unweighted

1. How important would you say Social Security is to people's financial security in retirement? Would you say it is [READ LIST]

	ALL	AGE			PARTY AFFILIATION		
	Total N=500	18-49 N=188	50-64 N=161	65+ N=150	Dem N=129	Rep N=154	Ind N=177
Very important	77%	70%	87%	87%	89%	66%	79%
Somewhat important	17	23	9	10	8	24	18
Not too important	2	2	2	1	1	5	1
Not at all important	3	4	2	2	2	5	1
Don't know [DON'T READ]	1	1	1	-	-	-	1
Refused [DON'T READ]	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

2. How confident are you that Social Security will be there for you throughout your retirement? Would you say you are [READ LIST]

	ALL	AGE			PARTY AFFILIATION		
	Total N=500	18-49 N=188	50-64 N=161	65+ N=150	Dem N=129	Rep N=154	Ind N=177
Very confident	11%	3%	14%	36%	14%	8%	11%
Somewhat confident	30	25	36	39	27	31	33
Not too confident	24	27	24	11	26	22	27
Not at all confident	34	44	23	12	31	38	29
Don't know [DON'T READ]	2	1	3	3	3	1	1
Refused [DON'T READ]	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

3. How important would you say Medicare is to people's health in retirement? Would you say it is [READ LIST]

	ALL	AGE			PARTY AFFILIATION		
	Total N=500	18-49 N=188	50-64 N=161	65+ N=150	Dem N=129	Rep N=154	Ind N=177
Very important	84%	80%	91%	87%	92%	75%	87%
Somewhat important	12	15	6	8	4	21	9
Not too important	1	2	-	1	2	2	1
Not at all important	1	1	1	3	1	1	1
Don't know [DON'T READ]	2	2	2	-	2	1	3
Refused [DON'T READ]	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

4. How confident are you that Medicare will be there for you throughout your retirement? Would you say you are [READ LIST]

	ALL	AGE			PARTY AFFILIATION		
	Total N=500	18-49 N=188	50-64 N=161	65+ N=150	Dem N=129	Rep N=154	Ind N=177
Very confident	10%	4%	11%	33%	14%	10%	8%
Somewhat confident	39	34	48	42	39	36	42
Not too confident	27	33	22	11	29	26	27
Not at all confident	22	26	18	10	17	25	19
Don't know [DON'T READ]	3	3	1	4	1	3	3
Refused [DON'T READ]	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

5. Please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statement: When it comes to Medicare and Social Security, Washington is trying to make too many decisions behind closed doors.

	ALL	AGE			PARTY AFFILIATION		
	Total N=500	18-49 N=188	50-64 N=161	65+ N=150	Dem N=129	Rep N=154	Ind N=177
Strongly agree	59%	59%	60%	59%	49%	74%	56%
Somewhat agree	22	26	17	17	29	16	25
Somewhat disagree	7	7	9	3	11	3	8
Strongly disagree	5	4	8	7	5	4	6
Don't know [DON'T READ]	6	5	6	13	7	4	6
Refused [DON'T READ]	-	-	1	1	-	-	1

6. Please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statement: When it comes to decisions about Social Security and Medicare, Washington needs to spend more time listening to ordinary citizens like me.

	ALL	AGE			PARTY AFFILIATION		
	Total N=500	18-49 N=188	50-64 N=161	65+ N=150	Dem N=129	Rep N=154	Ind N=177
Strongly agree	82%	84%	79%	79%	82%	87%	79%
Somewhat agree	13	12	16	13	13	9	17
Somewhat disagree	3	3	1	3	3	-	3
Strongly disagree	1	1	3	2	1	3	1
Don't know [DON'T READ]	2	1	1	4	1	2	1
Refused [DON'T READ]	-	-	-	-	-	-	-