

Florida Survey Results

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This Florida statewide survey of adults at least 18 years old finds that when it comes to Medicare and Social Security, Floridians 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. Floridians 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 Florida 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 (97%) believe Medicare is *important* to people's health in retirement, including over eight in ten who believe it is *very important* (89%).** This sentiment holds true across political parties (99% of Democrats, 95% of Republicans, and 93% of Independents) and age groups (95% of adults under age 50, 98% of 50-64 year-olds, and 99% of adults age 65+) with nearly all believing the program is *important* to people's health in retirement.
- **Over half (59%) of adults are *confident* that Medicare will be there for them throughout their retirement. However, less than a quarter (22%) are *very confident* about this.** Younger adults are less confident: 53% of adults age 18-49, 57% 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 (96%) believe Social Security is *important* to people's financial security in retirement, including over eight in ten who believe it is *very important* (86%).** This sentiment holds true across political parties (100% of Democrats, 97% of Republicans, and 93% of Independents) and age groups (95% of adults under age 50, 97% of 50-64 year-olds, and 100% of adults age 65+) with nearly all believing the program is *important* to people's financial security in retirement.
- **Over half (57%) of adults are *confident* that Social Security will be there for them throughout their retirement. However, less than a quarter (23%) are *very confident* about this.** Younger adults are less confident: 45% of adults age 18-49, 60% of 50-64 year-olds, and 81% adults age 65+ express confidence that Social Security will be there for them.

Views about Washington

- **Three quarters of adults (74%) 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 (67% of Democrats, 82% of Republicans, 81% of Independents) and age groups (77% of adults under age 50, 77% of adults age 50-64, and 66% of adults age 65+).
- **Nearly nine in ten adults (89%) agree Washington needs to spend more time listening to ordinary citizens like them when it comes to decisions about Social Security and Medicare, including three quarters (75%) who *strongly agree*.** Agreement is seen across political parties (91% of Democrats, 95% of Republicans, 91% of Independents) and age groups (90% of adults under age 50, 90% of adults age 50-64, and 88% of adults age 65+).

METHODOLOGY

The Florida statewide survey was conducted by Woelfel Research, Inc., an independent research firm, among 500 adults age 18+ from February 16 - March 1, 2012. A combination of landline and cellular random digit dial (RDD) samples were used to represent all adults in Florida 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 Florida statistics. The third stage weight adjusts the age and gender to be consistent with the distribution in Florida. 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=153	50-64 N=133	65+ N=210	Dem N=165	Rep N=138	Ind N=125
Very important	86%	83%	85%	95%	97%	82%	76%
Somewhat important	10	12	12	5	3	15	17
Not too important	1	1	1	-	-	2	1
Not at all important	1	2	1	-	-	1	3
Don't know [DON'T READ]	1	2	1	-	-	-	4
Refused [DON'T READ]	-	1	-	-	-	-	-

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=153	50-64 N=133	65+ N=210	Dem N=165	Rep N=138	Ind N=125
Very confident	23%	13%	21%	47%	33%	19%	16%
Somewhat confident	34	32	39	34	39	34	34
Not too confident	20	26	18	10	14	20	29
Not at all confident	20	28	18	6	12	24	19
Don't know [DON'T READ]	3	2	4	3	2	3	2
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=153	50-64 N=133	65+ N=210	Dem N=165	Rep N=138	Ind N=125
Very important	89%	86%	92%	93%	97%	82%	84%
Somewhat important	8	9	6	6	2	13	9
Not too important	1	2	-	1	1	-	4
Not at all important	1	1	2	-	-	4	-
Don't know [DON'T READ]	1	2	-	-	-	-	3
Refused [DON'T READ]	-	-	-	-	-	1	-

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=153	50-64 N=133	65+ N=210	Dem N=165	Rep N=138	Ind N=125
Very confident	22%	16%	18%	40%	31%	18%	16%
Somewhat confident	37	37	39	35	41	35	40
Not too confident	23	25	28	14	17	27	28
Not at all confident	15	19	15	7	9	19	13
Don't know [DON'T READ]	3	3	1	4	2	1	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=153	50-64 N=133	65+ N=210	Dem N=165	Rep N=138	Ind N=125
Strongly agree	47%	43%	53%	50%	39%	58%	47%
Somewhat agree	27	34	24	16	28	24	34
Somewhat disagree	11	12	10	8	12	6	10
Strongly disagree	7	5	4	13	13	7	3
Don't know [DON'T READ]	8	6	7	11	7	5	6
Refused [DON'T READ]	1	-	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=153	50-64 N=133	65+ N=210	Dem N=165	Rep N=138	Ind N=125
Strongly agree	75%	70%	83%	81%	74%	82%	74%
Somewhat agree	14	20	7	7	17	13	17
Somewhat disagree	4	5	4	5	5	2	4
Strongly disagree	3	2	5	4	4	2	2
Don't know [DON'T READ]	3	3	1	3	2	1	2
Refused [DON'T READ]	1	1	1	-	-	-	2