

## Virginia Survey Results

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This Virginia statewide survey of adults at least 18 years old finds that when it comes to Medicare and Social Security, Virginians 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. Virginians 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 505 Virginia residents age 18+ from February 17-22, 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* (87%).** This sentiment holds true across political parties (97% of Democrats, 96% of Republicans, and 98% of Independents) and age groups (97% of adults under age 50, 97% of 50-64 year-olds, and 97% of adults age 65+) with nearly all believing the program is *important* to people's health in retirement.
- **Roughly half (54%) of adults are *confident* that Medicare will be there for them throughout their retirement. However, less than a fifth (15%) are *very confident* about this.** Younger adults are less confident: 45% of adults age 18-49, 63% of 50-64 year-olds, and 74% adults age 65+ express confidence that Medicare will be there for them.

### Social Security

- **Over nine in ten adults (97%) believe Social Security is *important* to people's financial security in retirement, including over eight in ten who believe it is *very important* (84%).** This sentiment holds true across political parties (99% of Democrats, 96% of Republicans, and 98% of Independents) and age groups (95% of adults under age 50, 99% of 50-64 year-olds, and 96% of adults age 65+) with nearly all believing the program is *important* to people's financial security in retirement.
- **Less than half (45%) of adults are *confident* that Social Security will be there for them throughout their retirement. In fact, less than a fifth (14%) are *very confident* about this.** Younger adults are less confident: 32% of adults age 18-49, 56% of 50-64 year-olds, and 71% adults age 65+ express confidence that Social Security will be there for them.

### Views about Washington

- **Over three quarters of adults (77%) 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 (66% of Democrats, 81% of Republicans, 83% of Independents) and age groups (79% of adults under age 50, 78% of adults age 50-64, and 71% of adults age 65+).
- **Over nine in ten adults (92%) 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 (76%) who *strongly agree*.** Agreement is seen across political parties (92% of Democrats, 92% of Republicans, 92% of Independents) and age groups (91% of adults under age 50, 96% of adults age 50-64, and 87% of adults age 65+).

## METHODOLOGY

The Virginia statewide survey was conducted by Woelfel Research, Inc., an independent research firm, among 505 adults age 18+ from February 17-22, 2012. A combination of landline and cellular random digit dial (RDD) samples were used to represent all adults in Virginia 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 Virginia statistics. The third stage weight adjusts the age and gender to be consistent with the distribution in Virginia. 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=505	18-49 N=184	50-64 N=167	65+ N=151	Dem N=132	Rep N=141	Ind N=167
Very important	84%	79%	90%	91%	89%	84%	82%
Somewhat important	13	16	9	5	10	12	16
Not too important	1	2	-	2	1	2	1
Not at all important	1	2	-	-	-	1	-
Don't know [DON'T READ]	1	1	1	2	-	-	1
Refused [DON'T READ]	1	1	-	-	-	-	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=505	18-49 N=184	50-64 N=167	65+ N=151	Dem N=132	Rep N=141	Ind N=167
Very confident	14%	5%	16%	43%	15%	15%	12%
Somewhat confident	31	27	40	28	39	33	25
Not too confident	25	29	26	12	24	23	30
Not at all confident	26	36	14	11	20	28	27
Don't know [DON'T READ]	3	2	4	4	2	1	4
Refused [DON'T READ]	1	1	-	2	-	-	2

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=505	18-49 N=184	50-64 N=167	65+ N=151	Dem N=132	Rep N=141	Ind N=167
Very important	87%	85%	90%	92%	91%	83%	88%
Somewhat important	9	12	7	5	6	13	10
Not too important	2	2	-	1	2	4	-
Not at all important	1	1	1	-	1	-	-
Don't know [DON'T READ]	1	1	2	2	1	-	2
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=505	18-49 N=184	50-64 N=167	65+ N=151	Dem N=132	Rep N=141	Ind N=167
Very confident	15%	9%	15%	40%	19%	15%	12%
Somewhat confident	39	36	48	34	40	37	42
Not too confident	25	28	24	14	24	28	26
Not at all confident	19	26	9	8	13	20	19
Don't know [DON'T READ]	3	2	4	4	4	1	2
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=505	18-49 N=184	50-64 N=167	65+ N=151	Dem N=132	Rep N=141	Ind N=167
Strongly agree	50%	47%	58%	49%	27%	62%	56%
Somewhat agree	27	32	20	22	39	19	27
Somewhat disagree	9	8	9	9	13	8	6
Strongly disagree	8	8	8	7	14	5	4
Don't know [DON'T READ]	6	5	5	13	7	7	5
Refused [DON'T READ]	-	-	-	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=505	18-49 N=184	50-64 N=167	65+ N=151	Dem N=132	Rep N=141	Ind N=167
Strongly agree	76%	73%	85%	73%	73%	75%	78%
Somewhat agree	16	18	11	14	19	17	14
Somewhat disagree	3	4	1	3	3	4	3
Strongly disagree	3	3	2	5	4	4	2
Don't know [DON'T READ]	2	1	1	5	1	-	3
Refused [DON'T READ]	-	-	-	-	-	-	-