



## The Social Security Benefits of Sitting Senators Revisited

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Social Security has just entered its 77<sup>th</sup> year as an essential source of economic security for millions of Americans in their retirement. However, some politicians – such as Florida Senator Marco Rubio and Governor Rick Perry of Texas – have recently said that Social Security is bankrupt and will not be there for them or their children.

This is not an accurate assessment. The latest projections from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) show that Social Security will remain fully solvent through 2038. Even if Congress makes no further changes to the program, Social Security will be able to pay slightly more than 80 percent of scheduled benefits from 2039 on. As pointed out in a recent letter to Senator Rubio, this means he can expect to receive a benefit of \$41,439 if he retires at age 67 in 2038 and at least \$33,151 (both in 2011 dollars) from then on. In other words, the projections show that Social Security will continue to exist and pay a substantial benefit to retirees indefinitely.

CEPR has updated the table below (incorporating the newest CBO projections) to show the scheduled Social Security benefit for each current member of the Senate. The table also shows the payable benefit assuming that the projections for the program prove accurate and there are no further changes to the program. (Congress has made numerous changes in prior decades, most recently based on the recommendations of the National Commission on Social Security Reform in 1983.)

This table is intended to help inform Senators – as well as other members Congress and the general public – in understanding and making decisions about the future of Social Security. Hopefully this will help prevent inaccurate or misleading statements about Social Security as discussion of federal budgets and deficits continues.

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**Senators' Annual Social Security Benefits (2011 dollars)**

State	Senator	Year of NRA*	Benefits up to 2038	Benefits after 2038	State	Senator	Year of NRA*	Benefits up to 2038	Benefits after 2038
AL	Richard Shelby	1999	\$21,907	\$17,526	MT	Max Baucus	2006	\$27,214	\$21,771
AL	Jeff Sessions	2012	\$28,566	\$22,853	MT	Jon Tester	2022	\$34,274	\$27,419
AK	Lisa Murkowski	2023	\$34,802	\$27,842	NE	Ben Nelson	2006	\$27,214	\$21,771
AK	Mark Begich	2029	\$37,370	\$29,896	NE	Mike Johanns	2016	\$30,489	\$24,391
AZ	John McCain	2001	\$23,087	\$18,470	NV	Harry Reid	2004	\$25,701	\$20,561
AZ	Jon Kyl	2007	\$26,778	\$21,422	NV	Dean Heller	2027	\$36,586	\$29,269
AR	John Boozman	2016	\$30,489	\$24,391	NH	Kelly Ayotte	2035	\$40,025	\$32,020
AR	Mark Pryor	2030	\$37,778	\$30,222	NH	Jeanne Shaheen	2013	\$29,349	\$23,479
CA	Dianne Feinstein	1998	\$21,871	\$17,497	NJ	Frank Lautenberg	1989	\$19,136	\$15,309
CA	Barbara Boxer	2005	\$26,590	\$21,272	NJ	Robert Menendez	2020	\$33,250	\$26,600
CO	Mark Udall	2016	\$30,489	\$24,391	NM	Jeff Bingaman	2009	\$28,499	\$22,799
CO	Michael Bennet	2031	\$38,219	\$30,575	NM	Tom Udall	2014	\$29,098	\$23,278
CT	Richard Blumenthal	2012	\$28,566	\$22,853	NY	Charles Schumer	2016	\$30,489	\$24,391
CT	Joseph Lieberman	2007	\$26,778	\$21,422	NY	Kirsten Gillibrand	2033	\$39,110	\$31,288
DE	Thomas Carper	2013	\$29,349	\$23,479	NC	Richard Burr	2021	\$33,832	\$27,066
DE	Chris Coons	2030	\$37,778	\$30,222	NC	Kay Hagan	2019	\$32,601	\$26,081
FL	Bill Nelson	2007	\$26,778	\$21,422	ND	Kent Conrad	2014	\$29,098	\$23,278
FL	Marco Rubio	2038	\$41,439	\$33,151	ND	John Hoeven	2023	\$34,802	\$27,842
GA	Saxby Chambliss	2009	\$28,499	\$22,799	OH	Rob Portman	2021	\$33,832	\$27,066
GA	Johnny Isakson	2010	\$28,408	\$22,726	OH	Sherrod Brown	2018	\$31,918	\$25,534
HI	Daniel Inouye	1989	\$19,136	\$15,309	OK	James Inhofe	1999	\$21,907	\$17,526
HI	Daniel Akaka	1989	\$19,136	\$15,309	OK	Tom Coburn	2014	\$29,098	\$23,278
ID	Mike Crapo	2017	\$31,168	\$24,934	OR	Ron Wyden	2015	\$29,797	\$23,838
ID	Jim Risch	2009	\$28,499	\$22,799	OR	Jeff Merkley	2022	\$34,274	\$27,419
IL	Richard Durbin	2010	\$28,408	\$22,726	PA	Pat Toomey	2028	\$36,977	\$29,582
IL	Mark Kirk	2025	\$35,813	\$28,650	PA	Robert Casey Jr.	2027	\$36,586	\$29,269
IN	Richard Lugar	1997	\$21,912	\$17,530	RI	Jack Reed	2015	\$29,797	\$23,838
IN	Dan Coats	2009	\$28,499	\$22,799	RI	Sheldon Whitehouse	2021	\$33,832	\$27,066
IA	Charles Grassley	1998	\$21,871	\$17,497	SC	Lindsey Graham	2021	\$33,832	\$27,066
IA	Tom Harkin	2004	\$25,701	\$20,561	SC	Jim DeMint	2017	\$31,168	\$24,934
KS	Jerry Moran	2020	\$33,250	\$26,600	SD	Tim Johnson	2012	\$28,566	\$22,853
KS	Pat Roberts	2001	\$23,087	\$18,470	SD	John Thune	2028	\$36,977	\$29,582
KY	Mitch McConnell	2007	\$26,778	\$21,422	TN	Lamar Alexander	2005	\$26,590	\$21,272
KY	Rand Paul	2030	\$37,778	\$30,222	TN	Bob Corker	2018	\$31,918	\$25,534
LA	Mary Landrieu	2021	\$33,832	\$27,066	TX	Kay Bailey Hutchison	2009	\$28,499	\$22,799
LA	David Vitter	2028	\$36,977	\$29,582	TX	John Cornyn	2018	\$31,918	\$25,534
ME	Olympia Snowe	2013	\$29,349	\$23,479	UT	Orrin Hatch	1999	\$21,907	\$17,526
ME	Susan Collins	2018	\$31,918	\$25,534	UT	Mike Lee	2038	\$41,439	\$33,151
MD	Barbara Mikulski	2001	\$23,087	\$18,470	VT	Patrick Leahy	2005	\$26,590	\$21,272
MD	Benjamin Cardin	2009	\$28,499	\$22,799	VT	Bernard Sanders	2006	\$27,214	\$21,771
MA	John Kerry	2009	\$28,499	\$22,799	VA	Jim Webb	2012	\$28,566	\$22,853
MA	Scott Brown	2025	\$35,813	\$28,650	VA	Mark Warner	2020	\$33,250	\$26,600
MI	Carl Levin	1999	\$21,907	\$17,526	WA	Patty Murray	2016	\$30,489	\$24,391
MI	Debbie Stabenow	2016	\$30,489	\$24,391	WA	Maria Cantwell	2024	\$35,276	\$28,221
MN	Amy Klobuchar	2027	\$36,586	\$29,269	WV	John Rockefeller IV	2002	\$24,559	\$19,647
MN	Al Franken	2017	\$31,168	\$24,934	WV	Joe Manchin	2013	\$29,349	\$23,479
MS	Thad Cochran	2002	\$24,559	\$19,647	WI	Herbert Kohl	2000	\$22,148	\$17,718
MS	Roger Wicker	2017	\$31,168	\$24,934	WI	Ron Johnson	2021	\$33,832	\$27,066
MO	Roy Blunt	2016	\$30,489	\$24,391	WY	Michael Enzi	2010	\$28,408	\$22,726
MO	Claire McCaskill	2019	\$32,601	\$26,081	WY	John Barrasso	2018	\$31,918	\$25,534

Notes: Annual benefits above are the maximum that Social Security will pay (it is assumed that Senators' career earnings qualify them for this) for the year in which a Senator reaches the NRA, from the 2011 Social Security Trustees Reports (projected where appropriate); 100% maximum annual benefits up to 2038, and 80% thereafter. \*NRA is the normal retirement age.